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Communiqué

SPEECH NOTES

FOR AN ADDRESS

BY THE HON. JOHN C. MUNRO

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

TO THE

NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD

CONFERENCE OF ALL CHIEFS AND ELDERS

OTTAWA APRIL 28 - MAY 1, 1980

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

LET ME SAY FIRST HOW I APPRECIATE THE CHANCE TO SPEAK TO THIS ASSEMBLY SO EARLY IN OFFICE AS MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS. I KNOW HOW SIGNIFICANT THIS OCCASION IS. I SEE IT AS SPECIAL FOR ME AS WELL AS FOR YOU.

THIS IS THE RAREST OF OPPORTUNITIES -- TO MEET FACE-TO-FACE WITH SO MANY CHIEFS AND ELDERS. NONE OF MY PREDECESSORS HAVE HAD A CHANCE LIKE THIS AT SUCH A FORMATIVE STAGE.

MAY WE ALL RECOGNIZE THIS MOMENT FOR THE OPPORTUNITY IT PRESENTS. MAY WE ALL MAKE THE MOST OF IT.

IT ALLOWS EACH OF US TO DEFINE THE ROLE THAT INDIAN PEOPLE WILL PLAY IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL RENEWAL PROCESS. YOU WILL SET BOTH THE TONE AND THE PACE OF INVOLVEMENT BY THE INDIAN COMMUNITY IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE 1980's.

OUR PRIME MINISTER OUTLINED TO YOU VERY ELOQUENTLY OUR GOVERNMENT'S CALL FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS OF REBUILDING AND RENEWING OUR NATION - CANADA.

IN SPITE OF THE PAST AND CURRENT SITUATION, NO PEOPLE HAVE SHOWN GREATER LOYALTY TO THIS LAND THAN YOU HAVE. THE WORK THAT YOU AS CHIEFS AND I AS MINISTER NOW FACE IS TO

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FIND THE WAYS IN WHICH TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOUR PEOPLE TO ACCELERATE THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT YOU HAVE STARTED IN YOUR COMMUNITIES. WE MUST ALSO FIND WAYS TO FURTHER YOUR ASPIRATIONS FOR INDIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT.

EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS FOR US TO BRING ABOUT MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION BY YOUR PEOPLE IN THE PROCESS OF RENEWING AND REBUILDING OUR NATION.

YOU HAVE ADOPTED TWO THEMES FOR YOUR CONFERENCE - CONSTITUTIONAL RENEWAL AND INDIAN ACT REVISIONS. I WISH TO BEGIN MY COMMENTS BY SPEAKING GENERALLY, FOR A MOMENT, ABOUT BOTH OF THESE MATTERS.

OUR GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THE CONTRIBUTION THAT YOU CAN MAKE TO THE PROCESS OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM.

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA HAS MADE TWO PRINCIPLE COMMITMENTS TO THE INDIAN PEOPLES OF THIS COUNTRY. ON JULY 5, 1973, HER MAJESTY, QUEEN ELIZABETH II, STATED THAT HER GOVERNMENT, "... RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE SPIRIT AND TERMS OF YOUR TREATIES."

JUST THIS WEEK THE PRIME MINISTER REAFFIRMED THAT YOU WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE DISCUSSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES WHICH AFFECT YOU DIRECTLY.

THE DECLARATION OF HER MAJESTY AND THE COMMITMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER DEFINE FOR ME THE SCOPE I HAVE TO DISCHARGE MY MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES. IN THE PROCESS OF EITHER CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM OR INDIAN ACT REVISIONS, I AM REALISTIC ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE THAT IN 1980, I CAN'T DO AN ADEQUATE JOB WITHOUT FIRST SEEKING YOUR ADVICE AND CONCURRENCE.

I WISH NOW TO DEAL IN A MORE SPECIFIC WAY WITH THE QUESTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND INDIAN ACT REVISION.

THE NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD HAS WORKED HARD TO GAIN RECOGNITION OF YOUR RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS.

AS MINISTER, I WELCOME THE ADVANCES THAT YOU HAVE MADE. AS THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TUESDAY NIGHT:

1) HE SUCCEEDED IN FEBRUARY OF LAST YEAR IN HAVING AN ITEM PLACED ON THE AGENDA ENTITLED "NATIVES AND THE CONSTITUTION", AND HE GOT AGREEMENT THAT INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES WOULD MEET WITH THE FIRST MINISTERS.

2) HE ENDORSED THE FORMER GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IN INVITING YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO MEET WITH THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE CONTINUING COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS ON THE CONSTITUTION.

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3) he recognized the high priority you have placed on aboriginal rights, treaty rights, Indian self-government, Indian representation in political institutions, and federal and provincial responsibilities for the provision of services to Indian people.

On this last point I too am confident that other parties will agree to discuss these matters with you.

In addition, I'd like you to know that Cabinet has just approved funding to the N.I.B. for their participation in the Constitutional Renewal process.

While there is urgency to making progress on Constitutional reform, the necessary involvement of Provincial Governments and of Canadians in general means that discussions and negotiations over a broad range of topics will be going on for some time.

Our Government understands your desire to entrench your rights in a new Constitution.

Therefore, it will be necessary to separate those issues that you wish to deal with in the constitutional context from those that can be dealt with in the context of Indian Act Revisions.

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EACH PROCESS WILL BE SEPARATE. EACH WILL HAVE ITS OWN TIME FRAME.

I KNOW WHAT MANY PEOPLE THINK OF THE ACT. WHILE IT HAS SOME ADVANTAGES, IN MANY WAYS IT REPRESENTS OPPRESSION.

I'M NOT DRAWN TO THE ACT BECAUSE IT EXCITES ME EITHER. AS A NEW MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS I'VE BEEN STRUCK BY ITS INADEQUACY AND ITS RIGIDITY. IN SOME RESPECTS IT PROTECTS YOUR PEOPLE; IN OTHERS IT'S BADLY OUTDATED.

I DON'T BELIEVE IN CHANGES FOR THE SAKE OF CHANGE -- YOU'VE GOT TO WANT THEM. BUT WE'VE GOT TO LOOK AT CHANGES BECAUSE THE ACT IS LIKE A WALL BLOCKING A NARROW PASSAGE. IT WON'T GIVE WAY ON ITS OWN. AND WE CAN'T GO AROUND IT.

WHAT ELSE IS WRONG WITH THE ACT? IT LIMITS THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY-BASED ACTION. IT CURBS THE ABILITY OF BANDS TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY THEY NEED TO FUNCTION AS THEY WISH. IT GIVES YOU AND YOUR COUNCILS TOO FEW POWERS AND LIMITS THE ONES YOU'VE GOT. IT TREATS ALL COMMUNITIES AS THOUGH THEY WERE THE SAME.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ACT GIVES ME, AS MINISTER, ALMOST ABSOLUTE POWER OVER EVERY ASPECT OF YOUR LIVES.

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THE ACT IS A STUMBLING BLOCK TO SELF-GOVERNMENT. IT ENCOURAGES DEPENDENCY INSTEAD OF SELF-RELIANCE. IT REQUIRES A LARGE, OFTEN-MALIGNED BUREAUCRACY TO ADMINISTER AND FORCES IT TO MEDDLE IN YOUR DAY-TO-DAY AFFAIRS.

IN SHORT, PARTS OF THE ACT REPRESENT AN INTOLERABLE INTRUSION IN YOUR LIVES.

AS I SAID BEFORE, THE ACT DOES HAVE SOME VALUE. IT PRESERVES MY TRUST RESPONSIBILITY TO YOU AND PROTECTS YOUR SPECIAL STATUS AS THE FIRST CITIZENS OF CANADA. THOSE ASPECTS MUST STAY. BUT OTHERWISE, IS IT THE KIND OF LEGISLATION YOU WANT? WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH SELF-GOVERNMENT? IS THIS THE KIND OF LAW YOU WANT TO RULE YOUR LIVES ALWAYS?

I SEE THIS CONFERENCE AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO FIND SOLUTIONS -- TO DISPEL THOSE INTRUSIONS, TO IDENTIFY AREAS MOST NECESSARY FOR DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR COMMUNITIES AND FOR THE EVOLUTION OF INDIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT.

I SUGGEST THAT WE DEAL QUICKLY WITH THOSE ASPECTS THAT WE CAN AGREE ON WHILE CONTINUING WORK IN AREAS WHERE WE DISAGREED OR THAT INVOLVED COMPLEXITIES THAT ARE TOO TIME CONSUMING.

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I SUGGEST A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH SO THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE SOME MEASURABLE PROGRESS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

I AM CONVINCED THIS CAN ONLY HAPPEN WITH THE DIRECT PARTICIPATION OF INDIAN PEOPLE AND, THEREFORE, I AM COMMITTED TO SEEK YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROCESS.

I WANT TO MEET WITH AS MANY OF YOU AS POSSIBLE OVER THE SUMMER, TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS IN PERSON. WHAT I PLAN TO DO IS ASK YOUR PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATIONS TO ARRANGE A SERIES OF ALL-CHIEFS CONFERENCES IN EACH PART OF THE COUNTRY WHERE MOST OF US CAN GET TOGETHER.

THE STARTING POINT WOULD BE SOME BASIC PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE OUR DISCUSSIONS. THEY WOULD RECOGNIZE THAT:

- INDIVIDUALS ARE OUR GREATEST RESOURCE AND MUST BE ALLOWED TO GROW TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL;
- THAT ANY LEGISLATION SHOULD ALLOW INDIAN PEOPLE TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES TO ACHIEVE A HIGHER QUALITY OF LIFE;
- THAT AN AMENDED INDIAN ACT SHOULD ALLOW FLEXIBILITY FOR BANDS TO ASSUME MORE POWERS IN WAYS THEY CHOOSE AND AT A PACE THEY FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH;

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- THAT COMMUNITIES SHOULD BE GIVEN MORE RESPONSIBILITY OVER ACTIVITIES THAT OCCUR ON THEIR LANDS;
- THAT CONTROL SHOULD BE SHIFTED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS TO THE LEVEL OF THE COMMUNITY WHERE IT BELONGS;
- THAT BAND COUNCILS SHOULD HAVE MORE POWER AND MORE SECURE LEGAL STATUS TO MANAGE ALL DEVELOPMENT IN THE COMMUNITIES TO WHOM THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE;
- THAT FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY OF BAND COUNCILS SHOULD BE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THAT FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE SO STRUCTURED;
- AND, LASTLY THAT ANY NEW LEGISLATION WILL HAVE TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HER MAJESTY AND THE INDIAN PEOPLE.

AGREEMENT ON THESE PRINCIPLES SHOULD GET US WELL ON THE WAY TO UNDERSTANDING THE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH REVISION SHOULD TAKE PLACE. WITH THAT AS A BASIS, WE'VE ALSO GOT TO DECIDE WHAT IT IS WE WANT TO SEE DONE WITH THE ACT. AS I NOW UNDERSTAND IT, FROM ALL I'VE HEARD FROM YOUR PEOPLE DURING THE MANY YEARS I'VE BEEN IN GOVERNMENT, THESE PRIORITY AREAS WOULD BE:

- PRESERVATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES;
- STRENGTHENING OF YOUR SPECIAL STATUS AS THE FIRST CITIZENS OF CANADA;

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- RECOGNITION OF THE FORMS OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT NECESSARY FOR THE SELF-RELIANCE OF INDIAN PEOPLE;
- A MODERN DEFINITION OF INDIAN LAND MANAGEMENT;
- LEGISLATIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR MUTUALLY ADOPTED POLICY OF "INDIAN CONTROL OF INDIAN EDUCATION"'
- UP-DATING OR ELIMINATING OF SECTIONS OF THE ACT WHICH NO LONGER APPLY.

OF COURSE ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF MEETING YOU THIS SUMMER WOULD BE TO DETERMINE WHETHER YOU AGREE THAT THESE ARE THE AREAS WE SHOULD BE WORKING ON AND IF YOU HAVE OTHERS IN MIND.

THIS PROCEDURE ASSUMES WE CAN AGREE THAT A PHASED APPROACH TO REVISING THE ACT IS THE BEST ONE. DO YOU SEE A REVISED ACT AS ALL-ENCOMPASSING OR DO YOU WANT TO DEAL WITH IT IN STEPS? THE STAGE HAS BEEN SET TO CHANGE THE MOST OFFENSIVE OR RESTRICTIVE SECTIONS FIRST IN GATHERINGS LIKE THIS DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS.

WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT YOUR PEOPLE AGREED AT THE N.I.B. GENERAL MEETING IN TRURO, NOVA SCOTIA IN 1975 TO SET ASIDE SPECIFIC SECTIONS OF THE ACT THAT ARE MOST INHIBITING

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AND REMOVE OR REVISE THEM FIRST. OF COURSE WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE SURE, OVER THE SUMMER, WHETHER THIS IS WHAT YOU STILL WANT BEFORE WE KNOW HOW TO PROCEED.

ONE FURTHER POINT REMAINS TO BE DISCUSSED. I KNOW WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS SAID ABOUT THE DILEMMA THE ACT POSES IN THE WAY IT DEPRIVES INDIAN WOMEN OF THEIR STATUS IF THEY MARRY NON-INDIANS. I ALSO KNOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO REMOVE THAT DISCRIMINATORY PROVISION HAS GENERATED CONTROVERSY ... AND I'M AWARE THAT SOME INDIANS BELIEVE BAND COUNCILS SHOULD BE FREE TO DECIDE WHO HAS STATUS AND WHO HAS NOT. LIKE THE PRIME MINISTER I HOPE THAT WE CAN REACH AN EARLY AGREEMENT WHICH WILL RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF BOTH INDIAN WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN AND BAND COUNCILS.

FOLLOWING OUR SUMMER SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS I'D LIKE TO MEET WITH MY CABINET COLLEAGUES TO ACQUAINT THEM WITH THE PRINCIPLES FOR REVISION AND THE RESULTS OF OUR DISCUSSIONS. A BILL WOULD BE DRAFTED, BASED ON CABINET'S INSTRUCTIONS, AND INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TO ALLOW FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. WITH CABINET'S AGREEMENT, A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE WOULD THEN GO OUT TO MANY OF YOUR COMMUNITIES FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF CONSULTATION. ALL INDIAN VIEWS WILL BE CONSIDERED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TAKES THE BILL BACK TO THE HOUSE FOR APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE.

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In other words, your people will have two opportunities to make their views known -- through you in the summer, and later themselves, to a committee of Parliament. I hope they will be clear on this: that going to Parliament this fall won't, in itself, change the Act. It will merely be a way to get the process started.

To put it as crisply as possible, I want to get this process out in the open quickly ... and get on with it. But I need your help. I need the benefit of your wisdom and your knowledge of the communities. I can't do it alone and I can't do it without a clear understanding of your wishes.

Before I conclude I want to touch on one other point. The Prime Minister covered the progress that you have made in influencing government policy since the 1970's. Our government realizes that Indian claims must be dealt with and, we hope, resolved to the satisfaction and benefit of all parties concerned.

Where progress has been slow in this area, we will attempt to facilitate the process so that you can play a meaningful role in the growth and development of our country.

I do not want to raise any false expectations. I do however, want to state clearly my commitment to get on

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WITH THE JOB OF ASSISTING THE PROCESS OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR INDIAN COMMUNITIES.

WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO YOUR CHILDREN TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO MOVING QUICKLY BUT SENSIBLY TOWARD REVISING THE ELEMENTS OF THE INDIAN ACT ON WHICH WE CAN AGREE.

I SENSE THAT THERE ARE MANY AMONG YOU WHO WANT FEWER WORDS AND MORE ACTION.

I SHARE YOUR SENTIMENTS.

WHILE I MAY SEEM IMPATIENT, I'M WELL AWARE THAT SOME OF YOU HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN INDIAN ACT REVISION DISCUSSIONS SINCE 1968, WHEN OUR GOVERNMENT ASKED YOU TO "CHOOSE A PATH!"

OTHERS OF YOU WHO ARE ELDERS WERE INVOLVED IN INDIAN ACT DISCUSSIONS AS FAR BACK AS THE LATE 1940'S.

SURELY, YOU AS LEADERS AND I AS MINISTER SHOULD MAKE A COMMITMENT TO THE ELDERS THAT WE WILL SEE THEIR PATIENCE REWARDED BY SOME CONCRETE RESULTS WITHIN THEIR LIFETIME!

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IT HAS BEEN FAR TOO LONG SINCE MANY OF THE ITEMS AT HAND FIRST MADE THEIR WAY ONTO THE AGENDA. TO ME IT'S OBVIOUS THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH TALKING AND TOO LITTLE LISTENING. I'M HERE TO LISTEN AND I'VE PROMISED YOU THE OPEN LINES THAT ARE NECESSARY FOR US TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY.

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STATEMENT BY

HOUNOURABLE YVON PINARD

PRESIDENT OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

CANADIAN ARCTIC ISLANDS CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION

JULY 31, 1980

AT FROBISHER BAY, N.W.T.

My purpose in being here is to mark the beginning of a period of some considerable historical significance to Canadians which might pass largely unnoticed unless we go out of our way to bring it to peoples' attention. On this day in 1880 Her Majesty Queen Victoria declared that the islands of the Arctic Archipelago were to become part of the new Dominion. The formal transfer of jurisdiction took place on September 1 of that same year.

Thereafter, "all British Territories and Possessions in North America, not already included within the Dominion of Canada, and all islands adjacent ... (with the exception of the Colony of Newfoundland and its dependencies)" became Canadian and subject to Canadian laws.

The history of man among the Arctic Islands predated the transfer by many centuries. Inuit hunters were the first true explorers of this vast and formidable region. They traversed it in their sealskin kayaks, raising stone cairns in the likeness of a person, which they called inuksuk (in-NOOK-shook) to mark their way. So it is fitting that the inuksuk symbol has been chosen to represent this centennial commemoration.

British explorers followed in search of the fabled Northwest Passage. One of the expeditions sent out, under the command of Sir John Franklin of the British Admiralty, disappeared somewhere among the islands in 1847. Curiously, a series of search parties, some dispatched

by Franklin's frantic wife, awakened international interest in what was until then a global backwater to Europeans and Americans.

Despite the many expeditions which gave Britain a claim to the islands, huge tracts were virtually unknown when it came time for the transfer. Its magnitude would not be clarified for decades to come. Its import was sublimated at the time by the enthusiasm of a young nation preoccupied with prospects in the West.

The Government of Canada did not turn its attention to the Archipelago in a concerted way until the twilight of the 19th Century. A quarter of a century after the transfer Captain Joseph-Elzéar Bernier, a son of sea-faring heritage born in L'Islet, Quebec in 1852 was commissioned to make the first of three Arctic voyages to take "formal possession of all lands and islands" in his way on behalf of Canada.

Bernier has been likened to Jacques Cartier. Like Cartier he wanted to find the Northwest Passage, but was thwarted by the merciless climate. As Cartier did for France, Bernier took possession of a great many Arctic islands in the name of Canada. And as Cartier had done for France, Bernier also planted crosses on several of the newly-discovered islands as confirmation of Canada's sovereignty.

Bernier, like others who came to know these lands and waters, owed much to his Inuit guides and hunters. William Wakeham, the Mounted Police, Vilhjalmur Stefannson and their successors were shown the way by Inuit dead-reckoning, native navigational skills which are still legendary in the Arctic.

In this century the Government of Canada has stepped up its activities in the Archipelago, establishing RCMP posts, weather stations, post offices, defence installations and medical and communications facilities. Resource exploration has, in recent years, helped maintain the Canadian presence first established by the government. Panarctic and Petro-Canada are but two corporate entities which help give expression to the national interest in the north.

Nowadays the Government is in the forefront of protection for the rich and delicate natural environment in the north. Economic development, drawn by the resource potential offshore and on the land, have put pressure on the wildlife, the people and the environment they depend on. The government is there to ensure that the rush to satisfy new goals and fulfill new dreams does not impair the environment. The Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act of 1972, and such projects as the Lancaster Sound Regional Study now underway, have been put in place to help understand and to safeguard the precious Arctic ecology.

While the centennial has a somewhat different significance for the Inuit, in the context of their centuries-old culture and traditions, they too are making their unique contribution. As full participants in the national fabric, they are helping to keep this region a vital part of Canada.

The significance of this centennial is not only historical. It is contemporary and it is visionary. Canada's North today is a dynamic link - no longer a backwater - to some vital national considerations. Despite their remoteness, despite the stark contrast of climates and the gentler distinctions of culture, little happens among these islands in isolation from the rest of the country. Canadians of the south should remember too that what they do also touches the people of the north.

These linkages are not all as tangible as resource development, social and political arrangements, regional economics or an environmental protection regime. While these subjects are of paramount importance, it occurs to me there is another less conspicuous dimension worth considering.

So much has been made of our differences as regionalized or ethnic-Canadians down through the years that it serves us to pause, from

time-to-time, and reflect on our similarities. This, to me, is such a moment.

We who explored the New World together, who charted its vastness and laid open its secrets, have at times forsaken our partnership in discovery. We who created a new nation out of a raw, stubborn wilderness - who raised its first cities and linked them with steel - have muted the echoes of our toil. Perhaps we owe it to each other as Canadians to recall how immense the challenge was ... and how we met it, together. Surely it was the act of nation-building that brought us together, not an accident of birth.

In important ways the north today is a reflection of that process. It is vast; to some it is forbidding; it offers challenge and it offers hope. The North can also help to re-awaken in us the sense of shared purpose and united spirit that brought us this far.

What of our identity ... of its potency in dealing with our needs? If there is a distinctive Canadian trait it is an awareness of the land and of its expanse. An understanding of northern conditions, of climate and geography, is common to us all. We may deal with it in unique ways, but we all must adapt to a land which is greater than any of us.

Given our sense of spaciousness it is natural for us also to ponder our horizons - to be forward-thinking, not paralysed by our past.

Apart from its historical aspects, then, this centennial gives us a chance to reflect on who we are ... and where we are going. From a global perspective we are all northerners. In our appreciation of a distinctly northern art and culture we are alike. Do we not share an awe for this imposing land and for the legends of its discovery? As we look for the future, do we not all embrace the north and its promise?

Blair Fraser, whose heart was with the north, once described it as "too barren ever to be thickly settled, too bleak to be popular." Then he prophesied: "there is no reason to doubt that it will always be there, and so long as it is there, Canada will not die."

Our challenge will be to awaken to our northernness and to employ it in wise, even-handed and innovative ways. The scientific-technological, socio-political and environmental imperatives of the north present us with complexities. Our individuality will influence the way we approach these tasks. We are not replicas of one another, but we have common interests and sense of purpose. Surely this will serve us well.

Through you people here, and the opportunity of the moment, I ask each Canadian to consider what the north means to him or her. It is

for us to acknowledge that we all share a stake in the future of the North and that stake is really in ourselves.

I hereby set aside the period from this day of July 31, 1980 to October 9 for the Commemoration of the Arctic Islands Centennial and trust that Canadians will pause to reflect on its significance.

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Communiqué

NOTES FOR A SPEECH
BY THE HONOURABLE JOHN MUNRO
ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING
OF THE NEW BAND ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
BIGSTONE CREE BAND, DESMARAIS, ALBERTA
SEPTEMBER 20, 1980

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the former Chief Leonard Young and his Band Council and the present Chief William Beaver and his Band Council for their kind invitation to attend the official opening of their new Band Administration Office.

In their effort to achieve self-determination, Band members have worked together at a project that spells out success. This beautiful new Band Office is symbolic of the tremendous step forward taken by the Bigstone Cree Band in the past year. I understand it utilizes an active solar heating technology and a unique octalog construction system, both of which combined result in an energy efficient building. You have followed a difficult yet creative path in developing a distinctive "Bigstone Cree" stamp on Indian government in this part of the country.

It is my understanding that you are now, or will soon, administer all the programs and services destined for your people. These involve such wide-ranging programs as:

- Social Services
- Local Government
- Public Works
- Lands, Estates and Membership
- Community Planning

- - - currently involving approximately $2 million. In

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ADDITION, YOU WILL BE SOON ADMINISTERING ALL THE EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR YOUR BAND MEMBERS, ASSUMING SUCCESSFUL TRIPARTITE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN MY DEPARTMENT AND YOUR BAND AND ALBERTA'S NORTHLANDS SCHOOL DIVISION.

THUS, THROUGH YOUR EFFORTS HERE AT BIGSTONE COUPLED WITH THE WORK OF THE LESSER SLAVE INDIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL, OUR DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO PHASE OUT OUR DISTRICT OFFICE AT HIGH PRAIRIE. INDIAN SERVICES IN THIS AREA OF THE COUNTRY ARE NOW ALL ADMINISTERED BY THE ELECTED INDIAN LEADERSHIP AND STAFF UNDER THEIR DIRECT CONTROL.

THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE. AT THE REQUEST OF ELECTED INDIAN CHIEFS AND COUNCILS, OUR DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO BOTH MOVE BACK AND OUT OF THE PICTURE, AND TO ENCOURAGE AN INDIAN DESIGN TAKEOVER OF SERVICES AND PROGRAMS DESTINED FOR INDIVIDUAL INDIANS AT THE RESERVE LEVEL.

IT IS MY INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THESE IMPORTANT NEW DIRECTIONS IN INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

IN CLOSING, LET ME STRESS HOW PLEASED I AM TO BE HERE TODAY TO WITNESS THIS IMPORTANT MILESTONE ON THE ROAD TO YOUR LOCAL INDIAN GOVERNMENT CHOSEN BY THE BIGSTONE CREE BAND.

Communiqué

NOTES FOR A SPEECH

BY

THE HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

AT THE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF

INUIT TAPIRISAT OF CANADA

COPPERMINE, N.W.T.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1980.

I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE IN COPPERMINE TODAY AND I WOULD LIKE FIRST TO THANK MR. AMAROOK FOR HIS INVITATION TO JOIN YOUR DISCUSSIONS ON THE NUNAVUT PROPOSAL AND RELATED QUESTIONS OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. I SINCERELY WELCOME THIS RARE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS SEVERAL HUNDRED DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, COMING, I UNDERSTAND, FROM ALL THE INUIT COMMUNITIES IN LABRADOR, QUEBEC AND THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES PLUS THE OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS FROM SOUTH OF THE TREE-LINE.

I HAVE AGREED TO ATTEND YOUR ANNUAL MEETING WITHOUT HESITATION NOT ONLY BECAUSE OPPORTUNITIES TO ADDRESS A LARGE INUIT AUDIENCE DO NOT PRESENT THEMSELVES TOO OFTEN, BUT ALSO BECAUSE WE NOW FIND OURSELVES IN A CRUCIAL PERIOD OF DECISION-MAKING WHICH WILL DIRECTLY AFFECT THE FUTURE OF THE INUIT PEOPLE AND ALSO THE FUTURE OF ALL THE CITIZENS OF THE ENTIRE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

I AM ALSO GLAD TO BE HERE TODAY BECAUSE, AS MOST OF YOU ARE AWARE, I WISH TO SEEK THE VIEWS OF CABINET IN THE NEAR FUTURE ON A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS OF INTEREST TO YOU. THEREFORE, AND I THINK MOST OF YOU WILL AGREE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT I AM EXPOSED TO ALL POINTS OF VIEW DURING WHAT WE MIGHT CALL THE DEBATE AND "CONSULTATION PHASE". WITH THIS IN MIND, I PROPOSE TO SPEND MOST OF MY TIME HERE LISTENING TO VIEWS EXPRESSED BY INUIT SPOKESMEN SO THAT SUCH VIEWS MAY BECOME INTEGRAL FACTORS IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

OF COURSE, IT MUST BE REALIZED THAT, IN ALL FAIRNESS, I MUST TRY TO HEAR AND WEIGH ALL POINTS OF VIEW ON THE FUTURE OF THE TERRITORIES, KEEPING IN MIND THE

GENERAL INTEREST OF ALL N.W.T. CITIZENS. I FIRMLY BELIEVE IT IS MY ROLE AND THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY ALL PROPOSALS, EXAMINE THEIR IMPLICATIONS AS WELL AS NOTING THE REACTIONS FROM VARIOUS OTHER GROUPS, NATIVE OR NON-NATIVE, INUIT OR NON-INUIT, FROM THE EASTERN OR WESTERN PARTS OF THE N.W.T.

AS I HAVE ALREADY INDICATED IN THE PAST, THERE IS IN THE N.W.T. A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN FREELY ELECTED BY THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF THE TERRITORIES - THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - AN INSTITUTION ON WHICH I RELY HEAVILY AS THE DULY CONSTITUTED REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE CITIZENS OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

I NEED NOT REMIND YOU HOW IMPORTANT AND CRUCIAL WILL BE THE UPCOMING SESSION WHICH WILL OPEN ON OCTOBER 22 IN FROBISHER BAY. EVERYONE WILL EXPECT SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES SUCH AS THE NUNAVUT PROPOSAL. I AM CERTAIN ON THAT OCCASION, THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WILL RECOGNIZE THE UNIQUENESS OF THE SITUATION AND THAT THEY WILL SINCERELY GIVE THEIR SUPPORT TO THE SOLUTION THAT THEY SEE AS MOST APPROPRIATE TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL CITIZENS OF THE TERRITORIES.

I ALSO BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT BEFORE WE TAKE FINAL DECISIONS IN THIS AREA THE ENTIRE ISSUE BE EXAMINED CLOSELY IN ITS PROPER PERSPECTIVE.

JUST ABOUT A YEAR AGO, THE 1979 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF INUIT TAPIRISAT OF CANADA, HELD IN IGLOOLIK, ADOPTED THE DOCUMENT ENTITLED "POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN NUNAVUT". AS YOU ALL KNOW THAT DOCUMENT PROMOTES THE IDEA OF A SEPARATE TERRITORY, APPROXIMATELY ALONG THE LINES OF THE FEDERAL RIDING OF NUNATSIAQ.

A FEW WEEKS AFTER THE ADOPTION OF THE NUNAVUT PROPOSAL, THE N.W.T. TERRITORIAL GENERAL ELECTIONS RETURNED 22 MEMBERS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMPRISING 9 INUIT AND A TOTAL OF 14 NATIVE PEOPLE. THE PRESENCE OF THAT NATIVE MAJORITY, MORE ARTICULATE THAN EVER BEFORE, WAS FELT IMMEDIATELY IN THE LEGISLATURE'S BUSINESS AS A NUMBER OF ISSUES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO NATIVE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AT LENGTH IN THE ASSEMBLY AS WELL AS IN THE EXECUTIVE. OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE ONE SHOULD NOTE THE QUESTION OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NWTG AND THE VARIOUS NATIVE GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE RESOLUTION OF NATIVE CLAIMS, AND ALSO THE CAPACITY OF THE NWTG TO MEET AND SATISFY THE REGIONAL AND LOCAL ASPIRATIONS AND NEEDS THAT EMERGE FROM THE VARIOUS PARTS OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

SHORTLY AFTER THE OCTOBER 1979 TERRITORIAL ELECTIONS, THE NEW LEGISLATURE, IN RESPONSE TO THE NUNAVUT PROPOSAL AND PRESSURES FROM OTHER QUARTERS, STRUCK THE "UNITY COMMITTEE" WHOSE MANDATE WAS TO "TRY TO DETERMINE THE MEANS BY WHICH A POLITICAL CONSENSUS MIGHT BE GENERATED AMONG THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THIS MATTER TO THE ASSEMBLY".

IN EARLY MARCH, 1980, THE HONOURABLE C.M. DRURY, THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. SUBMITTED HIS REPORT. MR. DRURY DEALT WITH A WIDE RANGE OF CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS INCLUDING THE NUNAVUT PROPOSAL. THEREFORE, MR. DRURY'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARE ALSO OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN CONSIDERING WHAT IS TO BE DONE, A MATTER WHICH I AM SURE THE UNITY COMMITTEE HAS ALREADY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

MORE RECENTLY, I HAVE APPOINTED MR. ROBERT MITCHELL AS THE FEDERAL NEGOTIATOR IN THE N.W.T. INUIT CLAIM DISCUSSIONS. MR. MITCHELL'S FIRST OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE INUIT TAPIRISAT OF CANADA. THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL CONTINUE WHILE DELIBERATIONS ON THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE NUNAVUT PROPOSAL ARE ONGOING.

THE NORTH TODAY IS A VERY COMPLEX PLACE. I AM CONSTANTLY REMINDED OF JUST HOW RAPID THE CHANGES HAVE BEEN OVER THE PAST 10-15 YEARS AND IMPRESSED IN THE WAY THAT POLITICAL PROCESSES HAVE TAKEN ROOT AT THE LOCAL, REGIONAL, TERRITORIAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS.

THE ISSUES THAT WILL BE DEBATED TODAY ARE EXTRAORDINARILY CHALLENGING AND VITALLY RELEVANT TO ALL NORTHERNERS, AND I MUST ADD, TO THE NATION AS A WHOLE. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FURTHER EXPRESSIONS ON "NUNAVUT", THE RELATIONSHIP OF NUNAVUT TO THE REST OF THE NORTH, TO ITS REGIONS AND TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT. LASTLY, WE MUST DEAL WITH YOUR CLAIM, AND EXPLORE HOW IT MAY BE SETTLED WITHIN T CONTEXT OF NUNAVUT OR OTHER SUCH CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

GIVEN THE VERY NATURE AND NUMBER OF THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS IN FRONT OF US AS WELL AS THE NUMEROUS REACTIONS TO EACH OF THOSE PROPOSALS, I THINK IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE TAKE THE TIME NECESSARY TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSALS ON EACH OTHER, AND THAT WE SEE HOW EACH PROPOSAL WILL AFFECT THE VARIOU ELEMENTS THAT CONSTITUTE THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. SINCE THE DECISION WE SOON MUST MAKE WILL DETERMINE OUR FUTURE FOR DECADES TO COME, I AM FIRMLY OF THE OPINION THAT WE SHOULD NOT ACT PRECIPITOUSLY BUT RATHER PROCEED IN A SYSTEMATIC MANNER IN FULL RECOGNITION OF EACH OTHERS' VIEWS AND ASPIRATIONS.

IT IS ONLY ON THAT BASIS THAT I BELIEVE WE CAN BUILD A SOLID FUTURE FOR COMING GENERATIONS.

THANK YOU.

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SPEECH NOTES FOR MR. D. SAVOIE
ON BEHALF OF THE HONOURABLE JOHN MUNRO
MINISTER OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 20 ANNIVERSARY
OF THE INSTITUTE FOR NORTHERN STUDIES,
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

OCTOBER 17, 1980.

On behalf of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development of Canada I am pleased to be here today at the University of Saskatchewan to commemorate with you the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Institute for Northern Studies.

I would like to take this occasion to give homage to one of your colleagues, -- a scientist like many of you, -- who spent more than 20 years in Canada's far North living very much the same kind of life as the first inhabitants of this land -- the Indians and the Inuit.

In 1862, Emile Petitot left France and set out for America. During this trip he met some Indians and the very same day began work on a dictionary of 10 Indian dialects which he continued to develop over the years. Petitot immediately began to visit Indian tribes of the North, learning their languages, carefully studying their customs and making detailed notes in his log book often accompanied by sketches of what he saw. It was at the Notre-Dame-de-Bonne-Espérance Mission, near Fort Good Hope, that he spent the major part of his life as a missionary from 1864 to 1878.

Father Petitot's scientific contribution to the Canadian North is unique, far reaching and of very great value. He contributed to a number of areas of scientific study including geography, anthropology, geology and many others. Father Petitot's geographical work is probably his most important. He drew a map of the North which was published in 1875 by the Société de Géographie de Paris. To compile it,

He made many surveys of the area, checking and correcting the maps made by his predecessors. Father Petitot travelled by foot making maps of the North with no instruments except a watch and a compass. In 1883, the Royal Geographical Society of London awarded him the Back Prize in recognition of his great contribution to science.

As you know, enormous changes have occurred in the North. One of the most important is the emphasis that the people of the North now place on having a say in all matters affecting their lives and aspirations, including research. They know there are problems - social, economic, environmental, administrative and political - and that the only way to begin to solve them is by gaining a better understanding of the causes. However, they also recognize that the priorities for science in the South are not necessarily well suited to the needs of the North.

Important political and constitutional changes are taking place in the North. New institutions must be created, and it is in this light that we should interpret the Department's recent efforts toward establishing a new framework governing scientific activities in the North.

Science in the North has an obligation to offer solutions to the acute problems that exist there. The day-to-day life of the citizens is so deeply affected by these matters that it cannot validly be said that science belongs exclusively to the scientists.

CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN FULFILLING THE OBJECTIVE THAT RESEARCH BE RELEVANT, AND IN FACT SHOULD BENEFIT THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH. UNIVERSITIES MUST BE PRESENT IN THE NORTH AND THEY WILL HAVE TO ORIENT THEIR EFFORTS TOWARDS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF NORTHERN PROBLEMS. SOLUTIONS MUST BE FOUND WHICH ARE ACCEPTABLE TO NORTHERNERS.

SOME WILL SAY IT IS A BIG CHALLENGE. IT IS INDEED. AND I WOULD LIKE TO REFER TO YOU, AS AN EXAMPLE, THE SCIENTIFIC EFFORT OF EMILE PETITOT, WHO WAS FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY UNKNOWN BY CANADIAN SCHOLARS.

I MUST CONGRATULATE YOU, DR. KRISTJANSON, AS PRESIDENT OF THIS UNIVERSITY, AND YOU, DR. BONE, AS DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE, FOR HAVING TAKEN THE INITIATIVE AS A CANADIAN UNIVERSITY TO GIVE PUBLIC RECOGNITION TO THE SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTION OF EMILE PETITOT.

I AM PLEASED MR. PRESIDENT, ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTER OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS, TO GIVE TO THE INSTITUTE FOR NORTHERN STUDIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN THE COLLECTION OF THE WORKS OF EMILE PETITOT. I AM SURE THAT THIS INSTITUTE AND ITS ASSOCIATES IN NORTHERN RESEARCH WILL CONTINUE IN THE SPIRIT OF EMILE PETITOT - SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE SERVICE OF THE NORTH!

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Affairs indiennes et du Nord Canada

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NOTES FOR A SPEECH

BY THE

HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

URRAR
DEC 9 1980
SITY OF TORONTO

TO THE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON D.I.A.N.D.

NOVEMBER 18, 1980

Communiqué

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE .....

AT A TIME LIKE THIS I'M DRAWN TO REFLECT ON THE SCOPE OF MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT, NOT TO MENTION NATIVE CLAIMS. THE MANDATE OF THIS DEPARTMENT IS AS BROAD AS THAT OF ANY IN THE GOVERNMENT.

IT IS RELATIVELY RARE WHEN A MINISTER IN THIS JOB HAS A CHANCE TO PAUSE AND TO GLANCE AT THE HORIZON, SO TO SPEAK, OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES. KNOWING THAT THE INTERESTS OF MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE ARE LIKELY TO RANGE ACROSS THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF ISSUES AND EVENTS. I THOUGHT I WOULD TAKE A MOMENT NOW TO TOUCH ON SOME OF THEM.

WHEN YOU LOOK AT WHAT THE NOT-SO-DISTANT FUTURE HOLDS IN THE VARIOUS AREAS OF MY RESPONSIBILITY THERE IS ONE PROSPECT THAT STANDS OUT AMONG ALL OTHERS AND IS COMMON TO EACH OF THOSE AREAS. THAT LIKELIHOOD IS FOR CHANGE ... POLITICAL CHANGE OF THE KIND THAT HOLDS PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE, IF HANDLED PROPERLY.

LOOKING FIRST TO THE NORTH IT IS FAIRLY EVIDENT THAT WE ARE ON THE THRESHOLD OF SOME MAJOR DECISIONS ABOUT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. THE NEXT FEWS YEARS WILL SEE A CAREFUL

RE-EXAMINATION OF VARIOUS RELATIONSHIPS SPURRED IN PART BY THE SORT OF DISCUSSION ON "NUNAVUT" THAT TOOK PLACE IN EARLY OCTOBER AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF INUIT TAPIRISAT OF CANADA IN COPPERMINE AND AGAIN AT THE RECENT N.W.T. TERRITORIAL COUNCIL ASSEMBLY IN FROBISHER BAY.

FOR THE MOMENT I CAN SAY WE ARE LISTENING WITH GREAT INTEREST TO REPRESENTATIONS OF THE KIND AT COPPERMINE AND THE SPECIFIC RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TERRITORIAL COUNCIL. WE ARE GIVING THEM CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO HAVE A CLEAR AND COMPLETE EXPRESSION OF THE PREFERENCES OF NORTHERNERS. THE QUESTION OF REDEFINING BOUNDARIES IN THE NORTH HAS SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF THE NWT AND POSSIBLY ALL CANADIANS. MY CABINET COLLEAGUES AND I ARE JOINTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WELLBEING OF ALL CANADIANS AND WE WILL HAVE TO MAKE OUR OWN DECISION ON THE ISSUES. I HAVE INDICATED TO NORTHERNERS THAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A DIVISION MUST BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED. AT THIS TIME MY OFFICIALS AND OTHERS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ARE CAREFULLY EXAMINING ALL THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLICATIONS. I HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPART SOME DIRECTION OR PARAMETERS WITHIN WHICH NORTHERNERS MAY EXAMINE THE VARIOUS OPTIONS FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTH.

On the land claims front committee members will be aware of certain appointments I have made. Last May I appointed Mr. Dennis O'Connor, a former magistrate of Yukon territory, as chief federal negotiator for the Yukon claim. Negotiations began in Vancouver in June and have been progressing quite well, I'm told. Also in June I named Senator Davie Steuart as chief negotiator for the COPE claim.

In addition in August I appointed Robert Mitchell from Saskatchewan to initiate discussions with Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. Robert Young of Calgary was also named in August to deal with the Nishga Tribal Council and the British Columbia Government on the Nishga's historic claim to B.C.'s Nass River Valley.

When you add it all up, that activity represents a fairly determined effort on my part to get things moving again and to live up to the federal government's commitment to negotiate claims. If all goes well the results of these various negotiations will be to prepare native people, whether they live in the Nass Valley, the central arctic barrenlands or along the Yukon River for the change that will inevitably come to them.

But it is perhaps in Indian and Inuit affairs these days where discussion about political change - how to make it happen and how to deal with it when it does - assumes the most dramatic proportions.

Last summer I spent several weeks travelling among Indian people and talking to their leaders, checking to see if there was a concensus amongst them for immediate action to revise the Indian Act.

From what I've seen, the capacity of Indian bands to manage their own affairs is growing steadily. However the message I received this summer is that it would be inappropriate to go ahead now with major amendments to the Indian Act. Still, Indian peoples' future is being repressed by the lack of movement on the legislative front and from what I've seen in recent months there are a significant number of Indian leaders who realize this. They want to get on with some concrete action. They want the instruments of self-government and increased self-reliance now while they and their own children can benefit from them - not in another generation.

On this point I don't need to tell members of this committee how long it takes to sew legislative action and see it bear fruit. I've been telling people across

THE COUNTRY THAT LEGISLATION MUST BE INTRODUCED IN THE COMING YEAR - NO LATER THAN NEXT FALL - IF INDIANS ARE GOING TO SEE ANY RESULTS WITHIN THE LIFE OF THIS PARLIAMENT. THIS IS MY VIEW.

IN THE MEANTIME, INDIANS HAVE TO LIVE IN A LEGISLATIVE STRAIT-JACKET CALLED THE INDIAN ACT THAT KEEPS THEM TRUSSED UP IN THE INJUSTICES OF THE PAST. ALSO IN THE MEANTIME THE GOVERNMENT IS LEGALLY BOUND TO DEAL WITH INDIAN PEOPLE IN WAYS THAT ARE TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE TO THE 1980s.

WITH THESE RESTRICTIONS IN MIND, WE ARE DOING WHAT WE CAN THROUGH LEGISLATIVE INTERPRETATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEANS TO REINFORCE THE NOTION OF LOCAL CONTROL.

THAT IS WHY, FOR EXAMPLE, I AGREED LAST SUMMER TO SUSPEND SECTIONS OF THE INDIAN ACT WHICH DISCRIMINATED AGAINST INDIAN WOMEN, WHEN ASKED TO DO SO BY BAND COUNCILS. I DID THIS USING THE AUTHORITY GIVEN TO ME TO SUSPEND ANY PORTION OF THE INDIAN ACT. THIS ACTION REFLECTS MY OWN CONCEPTION OF HOW INDIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD WORK - WHEREIN BAND COUNCILS SHOULD MAKE THE IMPORTANT DECISIONS AFFECTING THEIR BAND MEMBERS.

ALSO LAST JULY MY COLLEAGUES APPROVED AN ADDITIONAL $20 MILLION TO IMPROVE INDIAN HOUSING ON RESERVES. COUPLED WITH EXISTING FUNDS, IT BROUGHT THE AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR ON-RESERVE HOUSING IN 1980-81 TO MORE THAN $93 MILLION. THE INITIAL IMPACT OF THESE FUNDS IS TO RAISE THE QUALITY OF HOUSING BUILT AND REPAIRED ON RESERVES. OVER THE LONGER-TERM MEASURES LIKE THIS ARE DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN INDIAN COMMUNITIES SO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THEM CAN MORE VIGOROUSLY AND MEANINGFULLY PARTICIPATE IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, MR. CHAIRMAN, I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY OF APPEARING BEFORE YOU TODAY. I TRUST THAT MY REMARKS HAVE HELPED TO PUT SOME OF THE ACTIONS OF MYSELF AND THE GOVERNMENT IN A CONTEXT THAT CONTRIBUTES TO YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THIS DIVERSE PORTFOLIO.

3-8006

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada

Communiqué

SPEECH PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

BY

HON. JOHN C. MUNRO, P.C., M.P.,

MINISTER OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS

TO

NATIVE BROTHERHOOD OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

IN PRINCE RUPERT, B.C.

DECEMBER 5, 1980

(ADVANCE FOR RELEASE AT 8 P.M. PST, DEC. 5, 1980
CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a very special milestone in the history of the native peoples of British Columbia, and I'm grateful and honoured that you invited me to be with you for the celebrations. Please accept my sincere congratulations.

I have read of the Brotherhood's early struggles, a half century ago, under the guidance of far-sighted leaders such as Chief Bill Scow, the late Alfred Adams, George Luther, James Seaweed, and so many others. With vitality, wisdom and perseverence, you have met one challenge after another. The record of achievement is remarkable -- measured in better living conditions for your members across this Province, ever greater control over your own affairs and your destinies, and in the recognition, far beyond the mountains, of the Native Brotherhood of British Columbia as a strong and responsible voice of the Indian people in this part of the land.

As many of you are aware, this has been a very busy week in Ottawa, and a very significant one for Canada's native peoples. I think everyone back there was impressed with the imagination and the organizational effort that went into the Constitutional Express. I am sure you have heard the opinions of your own leaders who were there, and I had the pleasure

OF MEETING AND TALKING WITH MANY OF THEM. I THINK THEY WOULD AGREE WITH ME THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS WERE, TO SAY THE LEAST, PRETTY FRANK. BUT NOW I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU HOW I SAW THIS MEMORABLE WEEK IN OTTAWA.

IT STRIKES ME THAT MUCH WAS GAINED BY INDIAN PEOPLE IN THEIR EFFORTS THIS WEEK. INDIANS, MANY OF THEM YOUR SPIRITUAL BROTHERS AND SISTERS, DEMONSTRATED A VITALITY AND AN UNMISTAKABLE DETERMINATION TO DEFINE THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER CANADIANS, AS WELL AS THEIR PARTICULAR RIGHTS. THAT EFFORT WILL NOT PASS UNNOTICED.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL EXPRESS, COUPLED WITH THE NATIONAL ALL-CHIEF'S MEETING, TURNED OUT TO BE ONE OF THOSE INSPIRED NOTIONS THAT SPARKS THE IMAGINATION OF THE MEDIA AND THEREFORE CAPTURES THE ATTENTION OF THE PUBLIC-AT-LARGE. LET ME READ TO YOU WHAT ONE OF CANADA'S MOST THOUGHTFUL POLITICAL COMMENTATORS TOLD SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND OF HIS NEWSPAPER READERS ABOUT THE EVENTS:

> "THE NATIVE PEOPLES ARE PRESENTING THEIR CASE ON THE CONSTITUTION THIS WEEK WITH DIGNITY AND FORCE. IF ALL THE GOVERNMENT'S CRITICS WERE AS SERIOUS, THE QUALITY OF DEBATE WOULD BE MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN IT IS."

No doubt the message got through to non-Indian Canadians that Indian people are deeply concerned about the process for reforming the Constitution. No doubt many Canadians now understand clearly that Indians see the process of patriation and amendment as central to the preservation of their distinct cultural, economic and linguistic identity. That was a major accomplishment.

But there is more that can, and needs to be done to convey to other people Indians' views on concepts of sovereignty and self-government. All this talk about constitutions and amending formulas and patriation sounds so distant. It seems so far-removed from Prince Rupert and the normal concerns of so many of you here today -- and yet it isn't. That is because what is really being discussed with Government by Indians in Ottawa is the framework in which people will relate to people in the future. The discussion involves the rights of individuals as North America's first citizens, as beneficiaries of the treaties, and a members of a distinct cultural identity. Eventually all this will require the reconciliation of those rights, however they are defined, and that identity with the rights of other individual Canadians. That is why what is going on in Ottawa these days is really so relevant, so important and so necessary.

THIS LEADS ME TO WANT TO SHARE AN INSIGHT WHICH I GAINED FROM HAVING MET SO MANY OF YOUR PEOPLE LAST WEEK AND HAVING WATCHED WITH SUCH DEEP INTEREST THE WAY THEY PUT YOUR CASE. AS SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW, PARLIAMENT'S SPECIAL CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE WAS TO HAVE WOUND UP ITS BUSINESS NEXT TUESDAY. THAT CUT-OFF DATE HAS BEEN EXTENDED BY TWO MONTHS TO FEBRUARY 6. MEANWHILE, YOUR NATIONAL LEADERS DECIDED TO POSTPONE THEIR APPEARANCE BEFORE THE SPECIAL JOINT SENATE-COMMONS COMMITTEE UNTIL SOMETIME EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR.

THE INSIGHT THAT I GAINED FROM WATCHING LAST WEEK'S EVENTS IS THAT CANADIANS WHO ARE ON THE OTHER END OF THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS EQUATION COULD BENEFIT FROM A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW INDIAN PEOPLE PERCEIVE THEIR RIGHTS AND THEIR ASPIRATIONS FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT. THE SPECIAL CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE IS THE FORUM WHICH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO AIR INDIANS' AND OTHERS' POINTS OF VIEW. IT IS NOT MY INTENTION OR MY PLACE TO INTERFERE IN THE DECISIONS OF INDIAN PEOPLE IN THESE MATTERS. BUT I FEEL I SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT THE NATION'S ATTENTION HAS BEEN DRAWN TO THE SITTINGS OF THIS IMPORTANT COMMITTEE THANKS IN LARGE PART TO THE EFFORTS OF INDIANS AND OTHER NATIVE PEOPLE. IN DOING SO THEY HAVE CREATED AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER CANADIANS AND TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE INDIAN POSITION. SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY DOESN'T COME ALONG VERY OFTEN, AND I THEREFORE ENCOURAGE

INDIAN PEOPLE TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT.

WHILE THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEBATE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN GETTING THE LION'S SHARE OF NATIONAL ATTENTION RECENTLY, THERE IS ANOTHER GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE THAT HAS RECEIVED MORE THAN PASSING NOTICE IN THE NEWS MEDIA. I REFER TO THE NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM THAT WAS INTRODUCED WITH THE NEW BUDGET ON OCTOBER 28. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO EXAGGERATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROGRAM TO THE COUNTRY AND ALL ITS PEOPLE. SO MUCH OF THE DISCUSSION IT HAS STIRRED UP HAS BEEN OBSCURED BY EMOTIONS --- FEAR, ANGER, GREED --- THAT I WOULD LIKE TO TRY, OBJECTIVELY, TO GIVE YOU SOME OF THE FACTS ABOUT THE PROGRAM, AS WELL AS SOME OF THE IMPLICATIONS IT HOLDS FOR OUR NATIVE PEOPLES.

CANADA HAPPENS TO BE, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF ENERGY RESOURCES, ONE OF THE MOST FORTUNATE COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD. WITH CAREFUL MANAGEMENT, THERE IS NO REASON WHY WE CANNOT BECOME TOTALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT WITHIN A VERY FEW YEARS, IN FACT, WE ARE EVEN NOW A NET EXPORTER OF ENERGY. WE PRODUCE MORE NATURAL GAS AND HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER THAN WE NEED, AND OUR SHIPMENT ABROAD OF THE SURPLUS BRING IN MUCH-NEEDED REVENUE.

OUR BIG PROBLEM, ONE THAT IS SHARED BY EVERY OTHER MAJOR WESTERN NATION, IS THAT AT THE MOMENT WE DO NOT PRODUCE ENOUGH OIL OF OUR OWN. THAT MEANS IMPORTING THE BALANCE

OF OUR REQUIREMENTS FROM THE PRINCIPAL OIL PRODUCING NATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA, AT PRICES WHICH HAVE SOARED HORRENDOUSLY OVER THE LAST HALF-DOZEN YEARS. IN SO DOING, THEY HAVE HAD A VERY SERIOUS IMPACT ON WESTERN ECONOMIES, INCLUDING OUR OWN.

HERE, IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, YOU HAVE ONLY TO LOOK AT THE PRESENT COST OF THE DIESEL FUEL YOU BURN IN YOUR BOATS, THE OIL WITH WHICH MANY BRITISH COLUMBIANS HEAT THEIR HOUSES, AND THE GAS YOU PUT IN YOUR CARS AND TRUCKS. BEFORE THE ONSET OF THE CURRENT CRISIS, GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO INDIANS WAS BASED ON CHEAP ENERGY. OBVIOUSLY, WE MUST NOW, ALL OF US, LOOK AT THE SITUATION IMAGINATIVELY.

ONE OF THE MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM IS A RAPID SHIFT FROM OIL TO OTHER MORE ABUNDANT FUELS. THE GOAL IS TO REDUCE OIL CONSUMPTION TO 10 PER CENT OF TOTAL ENERGY IN CANADA. IF WE SUCCEED, THIS MEANS THAT BY 1990 WE WOULD NOT HAVE TO IMPORT ONE BARREL OF OIL.

BEFORE I GET TO REGIONAL CONSIDERATIONS --- SOME OF THE EFFECTS AND IMPLICATIONS THE NEW PROGRAM WILL HAVE FOR B.C. --- I WOULD LIKE TO EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF REVENUE SHARING ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE NEW FEDERAL POLICY, AN ISSUE WHICH HAS BEEN DISTORTED IN SOME PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

If you think that rising oil prices have made things tough for you, as consumers, think for a moment what it has meant to your federal government. I stress that word "your" because there seems to be feeling in some parts of this land that Ottawa is some sort of foreign ogre. The fact is that the federal government, any federal government, has the responsibility to serve the national interests and those of all Canadians. Speaking personally, I do not like the "us" and "them" syndrome that appears to have developed. I hope we can count on Indian people, as many have already indicated, to defend a viable federal presence throughout all of Canada against those who would erode it or sever it altogether.

In discharging its responsibilities on the question of energy, the federal government has through a system of subsidies cushioned the blow of the runaway oil price increases to which I have referred, so that Canadians across the country have not been called upon to pay prices commensurate and parallel to each succeeding jump in the world price. But there is a limit to Ottawa's financial resources, too. And we have reached that limit.

To help compensate for this drain on your federal tax dollars, the new National Energy Program calls for a significant revision in the revenue-sharing arrangements between the federal government, the provinces and the petroleum industry.

Under the previous formula, the Provincial government concerned received 45% of the oil-gas revenue; industry got 45%, and Ottawa 10%. Under the new arrangement, the shares will be 43% to the Provincial government --- a reduction of just two percent; 33% to industry, a drop of 13%; and 24% to the federal government, and increase of 14%.

By way of comparison, I might point out that from oil production in the State of Texas, 48% goes to the producer, 17% to the State government and 35% to Washington. Remember, under the new set-up, the Canadian government still receives only 24% of the overall revenue.

In Australia, incidentally, the federal government receives 48% of oil revenues; the State government, 15% and the producer, 37%.

I mentioned that one of the objectives of the new program was to get Canadians "off oil," to other forms of energy. To do this, we will seek agreements with the Provinces to implement a program of incentives for conversion. This system will involve taxable grants of up to $800 to assist Canadians in changing over from oil to natural gas, electricity or other sources. The grants are designed to cover 50% of these costs.

As you are probably aware, the federal government favours the extension of a natural gas pipeline service to Vancouver Island. We hope that this project will proceed as rapidly as possible, and funds have been set aside to contribute to it.

These are only a couple of programs which will be made possible through additional revenues deriving from the National Energy Program. But there is at least one other one which will be of special interest to you. We plan to set up a fund of $4-billion to finance energy and economic development in the four Western Provinces over the early part of the next decade. Projects to be covered by this Western Development Fund will be selected jointly by federal and provincial authorities. It is expected these will include industrial development and diversification projects and other programs related to agriculture and water management.

Just the other day my colleague Lloyd Axworthy the Minister of Employment and Immigration was asked in the House about allocation of the Western Development Fund. Mr. Axworthy, who is taking the lead responsibility in Cabinet for Western Development, had this to say:

"ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR NATIVE PEOPLE IS BEING EXAMINED AND, CONSIDERING THE TREMENDOUS WEALTH BEING GENERATED FROM OUR RESOURCES, I PERSONALLY THINK IT WOULD MAKE GOOD SENSE TO RECYCLE MUCH OF THAT REVENUE TO HELP THOSE PEOPLE IN WESTERN CANADA WHO NEED THE MOST, NAMELY THE NATIVE PEOPLE."

I WOULD LIKE TO TURN FINALLY TO ANOTHER MATTER, NOT TOTALLY UNRELATED TO ENERGY, WHICH I REALIZE IS OF VERY IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO MANY OF YOUR MEMBERS: THE PROBLEM FACED BY WEST COAST FISHERMEN --- AND WHAT IS BEING DONE TO COPE WITH THEM.

YOUR BROTHERHOOD, SO EXPERT ON COMMERCIAL FISHING, SEAWEED HARVESTING AND MARINE MANAGEMENT, HAS DONE MUCH TO MAKE THE GOVERNMENT AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH INDIAN PEOPLE ATTACH TO THIS ACTIVITY. YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JEAN RIVARD AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE ALSO IMPRESSED UPON US THE PROBLEMS YOU ARE FACING: LIMITED FISHING TIME, A POOR SEASON, ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WITH THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION, DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF INDIAN-OWNED FISHING VESSELS AND INTENSE COMPETITION IN THE INDUSTRY.

I APPLAUD THE BROTHERHOOD'S ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOUNG PEOPLE TO BECOME FISHERMEN TO PERPETUATE ASPECTS OF THE TRADITIONAL WAY OF LIVING AND TO IMPROVE THE INDIAN ECONOMY IN B.C.

I RECOGNIZE THE BROTHERHOOD'S CONCERN ON BEHALF OF ITS MEMBERS FOR THE CURRENT DISRUPTION CAUSED BY THIS YEAR'S DOWNTURN IN THE INDUSTRY.

IN THIS REGARD I WANT TO CONFIRM THAT $4.2 MILLION IN EMERGENCY FUNDING IS BEING SET ASIDE TO PROVIDE DIRECT LOANS, LOAN GUARANTEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDIAN FISHERMEN WHO NEED HELP TO TIDE THEM OVER THE NEXT YEAR OR SO.

DIRECT LOANS WILL BE MADE TO TOTAL $200,000 BUT, SINCE A HIGHER DEBT LOAD WOULD BURDEN MANY INDIAN FISHERMEN DURING THIS PERIOD OF CRISIS, IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT DIRECT LOANS WILL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THIS PROGRAM.

THE LOAN GUARANTEES PORTION OF THE FUND WILL TOTAL $2 MILLION. THESE LOANS MAY PLAY AN EXTREMELY USEFUL ROLE IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS. THIS FUND WILL COME DIRECTLY FROM THE CONTROLLED LOAN GUARANTEE FUND, AT HEADQUARTERS IN OTTAWA.

The contributions fund will consist of a further $2 million. This is the most important form of support under this program. Money has been re-allocated at headquarters to fund this component as well.

This program will be administered jointly by the department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and by two - Indian boards.

The cost of administering this program will be $200,000.

You heard me a moment ago mention the Western Initiatives component of the National Energy Program contained in the October budget. I have had recent discussions with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Honourable Romeo Leblanc, on the mattter of West Coast Indian fisheries and we are both looking at this package as a possible source of funds that would allow government to enrich Indian fishermens' assistance.

THE NATIVE BROTHERHOOD OF B.C., OVER A PERIOD OF 50 YEARS, HAS ALREADY GONE A LONG WAY IN SECURING A BETTER LIFE AND BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ITS MEMBERS. BUT MUCH STILL REMAINS TO BE DONE. I HOPE YOU WILL SEE THE GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES I HAVE OUTLINED THIS EVENING AS COMPLEMENTARY AND HELPFUL TO YOUR OWN EFFORTS. TOGETHER, I HOPE WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A BETTER CANADA IN WHICH ALL NATIVE PEOPLES CAN PLAY THEIR FULL PART, IN GROWING PROSPERITY, AND WITH THAT INNER FREEDOM THAT WE ALL CHERISH.

THANK YOU, AND MAY YOUR NEXT 50 YEARS BE CROWNED WITH HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS.

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NOTES FOR A SPEECH

BY THE HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FOUR NATIONS CONFEDERACY

WINNIPEG

DECEMBER 12, 1980



Chief Longclaws, and Chiefs of the Four Nations Confederacy.

I'm very glad of the opportunity to be here this morning, because I want to talk to the chiefs that are attending this conference about a number of issues that are of concern to you - and to me.

Some of these are national in scope, and important to all Indian people in Canada. Others are of particular interest to the Indian people of Manitoba, issues that directly affect and involve the people in the communities you represent.

It is easy to use the term, "Manitoba Indian community", as if one were referring to the residents of a single city, or town. This is reinforced, in the media and elsewhere, when conferences such as this bring together the chiefs who represent that community. But in many ways the phrase misrepresents the reality: widely scattered reserves, often located in areas that are only accessible by water or air; individual bands with their own success stories, their own problems, facing the individual concerns of everyday community living.

I THINK ONE OF THE MAJOR CHALLENGES IS TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE SIMILARITIES, TO EXPLORE THEM AND TO FIND WAYS TO USE THEM TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL COMMUNITIES.

THE CHALLENGE THAT FACES MY DEPARTMENT IS HELPING YOU FIND THESE WORKABLE SOLUTIONS. I KNOW YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE INADEQUACY OF ELECTRICAL SERVICES ON MANY OF YOUR RESERVES, FOR EXAMPLE. AT PRESENT, 17 INDIAN COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN MANITOBA DEPEND ON DIESEL GENERATION OF ELECTRICITY. THAT REPRESENTS ABOUT 1600 HOMES. THEY ALL HAVE 15 AMP SERVICE --- PROBABLY ENOUGH TO OPERATE AN ELECTRIC TEA KETTLE OR A TOASTER, BUT ONLY ONE AT A TIME. TO OBTAIN MORE POWER THE CAPITAL COSTS ARE ENORMOUS, WITHOUT EVEN CONSIDERING THE INCREASING COST OF DIESEL FUEL. AT THE MOMENT, THOSE INDIAN HOMEOWNERS CANNOT USE MAJOR APPLIANCES OR ELECTRIC HEATING.

AGAIN, THE ISOLATION OF THE AREA IS A REALITY THAT MUST BE DEALT WITH. THE COST OF LAND LINE POWER TO THESE COMMUNITIES HAS BEEN ESTIMATED AT APPROXIMATELY $18 MILLION OVER FIVE YEARS. THAT IS A LOT OF MONEY. BUT WITH THE EVER-INCREASING COSTS OF FOSSIL FUELS AND TRANSPORTATION, THE INTRODUCTION OF HYDRO POWER MIGHT, IN THE LONG RUN, BE MORE ECONOMIC. WE ARE NOW LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF THE FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM.

OF EQUAL CONCERN TO ME, HOWEVER, IS THE FEELING IN THESE COMMUNITIES THAT THEY ARE BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST WHEN IT COMES TO ELECTRICAL POWER. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THOSE HOMEOWNERS TO ACCEPT POOR SERVICE WHEN THEY SEE THAT THE RIVERS AND LAKES THAT FLOW PAST THEIR VILLAGES ARE THE SOURCE OF SO MUCH OF THE HYDRO POWER THAT IS EXPORTED OUT OF THE PROVINCE. AND THAT IS A MATTER ON WHICH WE WILL HAVE TO APPROACH THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT.

HUNTING AND FISHING RIGHTS ARE ANOTHER SOURCE OF CONCERN. WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON NOW ARE THOSE ASPECTS OF THE ISSUE THAT FALL UNDER FEDERAL JURISDICTION, SUCH AS THE MIGRATORY BIRDS CONVENTION ACT AND THE FISHERIES ACT. WE ARE TRYING TO GET AN AMENDMENT TO THE MIGRATORY BIRDS CONVENTION THAT RELATES TO INDIAN HUNTING RIGHTS, ALTHOUGH THAT EFFORT HAS BEEN HELD UP SO FAR IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

WE ARE ALSO ACTIVELY WORKING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS ON A FEDERAL INDIAN FISHERIES POLICY, AND THIS IS EXPECTED TO BE READY SOON.

A NUMBER OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN THE PROVINCE MUST BE ADDRESSED AS WELL. A DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT STUDY THAT WAS CARRIED OUT THIS SUMMER IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS, THE MAIN ONE BEING THE SHORTAGE OF

SAFE DRINKING WATER AND ADEQUATE WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES. THIS IS A MAJOR PROBLEM AND IS NOT GOING TO BE RESOLVED OVERNIGHT.

BUT A START HAS BEEN MADE --- WAS MADE, IN FACT, BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY GOT UNDERWAY. UNDER THE CANADA-MANITOBA NORTHLANDS AGREEMENT, ALMOST $19 MILLION WAS ALLOCATED FOR COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE OVER A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD TO MARCH 1981. THIS IS COST-SHARED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND DREE ON A 40-60 BASIS. TO DATE, $13.7 MILLION HAS BEEN SPENT. THE ADDITIONAL $5.2 MILLION WILL BE EXPENDED DURING 1981-82 TO PROVIDE DRINKABLE COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLIES, COMMUNITY ROADS AND SANITATION SYSTEMS.

THE GARRISON DIVERSION CREATES ANOTHER POTENTIAL PROBLEM, FOR IF IT GOES THROUGH AS PLANNED IT WILL AFFECT MANY BANDS. WE DON'T YET KNOW WHAT THE FULL IMPACT WOULD BE, BUT THE DIVERSION COULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE THE LIVELIHOOD OF MANY INDIAN FISHERMEN IN THIS PROVINCE, AMONG OTHERS. WE ARE NOW WORKING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TO PUT OUR POSITION STRONGLY TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND WE ARE ALSO REVIEWING THE PRESENTATION MADE BY YOUR GROUP WHEN YOU SET UP THE PRAIRIE INDIAN WATER RIGHTS COMMITTEE.

THIS BRINGS ME TO ANOTHER MATTER THAT I AM VERY PLEASED ABOUT: THE APPOINTMENT EARLIER THIS YEAR OF AN ARBITRATOR UNDER THE TERMS OF THE NORTHERN FLOOD AGREEMENT.

THIS WAS A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT TOWARD THE ULTIMATE RESOLUTION OF THIS MOST CRITICAL ISSUE. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE MADE MONEY AVAILABLE TO THE REGION TO HELP FULFILL THE COMMITMENTS UNDER THE AGREEMENT, AND I AM NOW IN THE PROCESS OF APPOINTING A NORTHERN FLOOD COORDINATOR FROM MY DEPARTMENT THAT I TRUST WILL SERVE TO FACILITATE THE PROCESS.

I AM INTERESTED TO SEE THAT THE ARBITRATOR HAS RECENTLY RULED ON THE FIRST FORMAL MATTER BEFORE HIM, AND THAT THIS RULING WAS IN FAVOUR OF THE CROSS LAKE INDIAN BAND. THE NATURE OF THIS CLAIM IS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE, IN THAT THE ARBITRATOR HAS ESTABLISHED HIS JURISDICTION TO DECIDE IF A PARCEL OF LAND IS IN FACT RESERVE LAND. JURISDICTION OVER SUCH MATTERS IS CRITICAL TO THE COMPENSATION PROCESS, AS THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT FOR EVERY ACRE OF LAND AFFECTED BY FLOODING, THE BAND CAN RECEIVE EXCHANGE LANDS ON A

FOUR TO ONE RATIO. THE NORTHERN FLOOD COMMITTEE HAS WORKED LONG AND HARD ON BEHALF OF THE FIVE MANITOBA BANDS AFFECTED BY THE NELSON RIVER POWER PROJECT, AND I AM PLEASED TO SEE THAT THE ARBITRATION PROCESS IS NOW UNDERWAY.

ANOTHER ISSUE I KNOW YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT IS THE QUALITY OF ON-RESERVE CHILD WELFARE SERVICES IN MANITOBA. THE COMMUNITIES YOU REPRESENT HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WANT CONTROL OF THOSE SERVICES, AS THEY DO OVER OTHER PROGRAMS THAT DIRECTLY INVOLVE AND AFFECT THEM.

A REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE EARLIER THIS YEAR, PROPOSING THAT THE INDIAN PEOPLE ADMINISTER CHILD WELFARE SERVICES WITHIN GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS ESTABLISHED AND MONITORED BY THE PROVINCE, AND WITH FEDERAL FUNDING SUPPORT. THIS IS CERTAINLY A HIGH PRIORITY ISSUE. WE ARE LOOKING AT THE REPORT NOW AND I AM HOPEFUL WE WILL HAVE A DECISION SOON.

Local control of education is also a very important matter in Manitoba, and you have taken a positive step in establishing the Manitoba Indian Education Board to assist bands in taking over the responsibility of educating their own children.

In Manitoba, the Indian school population is growing at the rate of four to five per cent a year, just the opposite of the trend across the country. Many bands have now negotiated their own agreements with provincial school divisions. Such an approach ensures more accountability on the part of the provincial school boards, and helps increase the schools' responsiveness to the particular needs of Indian students.

Other bands have established their own school boards, assuming complete control of education. The Peguis School Board has recently signed an agreement with Frontier School Division to enable non-Indian students to attend Peguis Central School. Comprehensive approaches are also being taken at the tribal council level --- such as the Southeast Resource Development Council Education Board --- to exercise effective Indian control of education.

THESE ARE BOLD INITIATIVES, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS IN THIS AREA TO THE FULLEST. WE ARE ALSO COMMITTED TO FINDING WAYS TO DEAL WITH THE ACUTE SHORTAGE OF SCHOOL ROOM SPACE THAT HAS RESULTED FROM THE HIGH RATE OF GROWTH IN THE SCHOOL AGE POPULATION. A PLAN HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD THAT WOULD SEE 20 SCHOOLS BUILT OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, AND WE ARE STUDYING IT VERY CLOSELY.

I WAS SADDENED TO HEAR OF THE LOSS OF THE NELSON HOUSE SCHOOL, AND AM AWARE THAT THE IMPACT ON THE STUDENTS AND ON THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE HAS BEEN SEVERE. HOWEVER, I UNDERSTAND THAT A TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT HAS NOW BEEN MADE THAT WILL GET THE CHILDREN BACK INTO CLASSES VERY SHORTLY. ONLY THROUGH THE COOPERATION AND INVOLVEMENT OF FOUR PARTIES HAS THIS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED - AND I AM PLEASED TO SEE THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE NELSON HOUSE BAND, THE MANITOBA INDIAN EDUCATION BOARD, THE FOUR NATIONS CONFEDERACY AND OUR REGIONAL OFFICE HAVE RESULTED IN AN AGREEMENT SATISFACTORY TO ALL CONCERNED.

I HAVE TALKED AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT MATTERS THAT PARTICULARLY CONCERN INDIAN PEOPLE IN MANITOBA. SOME OF THESE ISSUES ARE MANITOBA'S OWN. OTHERS ARE SHARED BY MANY OTHER INDIAN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THE AVAILABILITY OF ADEQUATE LEVELS OF FUNDING FOR BAND DEVELOPMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, IS OF CONCERN TO ALL BANDS SEEKING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY

OF THEIR COMMUNITIES' LIFE. BUT WE MUST LIVE WITH THE REALITY AND MAKE THE MOST OF WHAT IS AVAILABLE.

I WOULD CERTAINLY LIKE TO COMMEND THE EFFORTS THAT THE MANITOBA BANDS HAVE BEEN MAKING TO STRETCH THOSE DOLLARS TO THE FULLEST AND MAKE THE MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF THEM. IN THE COMING YEAR, WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO MORE FLEXIBILITY IN THE ALLOCATION AND USE OF REGIONAL FUNDS, AND WE ANTICIPATE THAT THIS FLEXIBILITY WILL ALLOW YOU TO MAKE EVEN GREATER USE OF THE AVAILABLE DOLLARS.

I UNDERSTAND THAT ALL BANDS ARE ABOUT TO ENTER INTO A BUDGETING PROCESS WITH OUR REGIONAL AND DISTRICT OFFICES HERE, TO DISCUSS AND NEGOTIATE FUTURE BUDGET ALLOCATIONS. WITH A FORTHRIGHT, CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH ON ALL SIDES, THERE IS NO REASON WHY THESE NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT PRODUCE MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENTS AND ESTABLISH AGREED PRIORITIES.

LOOKING BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE QUESTION OF BAND FUNDING, HOWEVER, THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER VERY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL THAT WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON INDIAN PEOPLE IN MANITOBA AND ELSEWHERE. ONE

IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM, THAT WAS INTRODUCED WITH THE NEW BUDGET ON OCTOBER 28.

CANADA HAPPENS TO BE, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF ENERGY RESOURCES, ONE OF THE MOST FORTUNATE COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD. WITH CAREFUL MANAGEMENT, THERE IS NO REASON WHY WE CANNOT BECOME TOTALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT WITHIN A VERY FEW YEARS, IN FACT, WE ARE EVEN NOW A NET EXPORTER OF ENERGY. WE PRODUCE MORE NATURAL GAS AND HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER THAN WE NEED, AND OUR SHIPMENT ABROAD OF THE SURPLUS BRING IN MUCH-NEEDED REVENUE. OUR BIG PROBLEM, ONE THAT IS SHARED BY EVERY OTHER MAJOR WESTERN NATION, IS THAT AT THE MOMENT WE DO NOT PRODUCE ENOUGH OIL OF OUR OWN.

ONE OF THE MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM IS A RAPID SHIFT FROM OIL TO OTHER MORE ABUNDANT FUELS. THE GOAL IS TO REDUCE OIL CONSUMPTION TO 10 PER CENT OF TOTAL ENERGY IN CANADA. IF WE SUCCEED, THIS MEANS THAT BY 1990 WE WOULD NOT HAVE TO IMPORT ONE BARREL OF OIL.

TO DO THIS, WE WILL SEEK AGREEMENTS WITH THE PROVINCES TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM OF INCENTIVES FOR CONVERSION. THIS SYSTEM WILL INVOLVE TAXABLE GRANTS OF UP TO $800 TO ASSIST CANADIANS IN CHANGING OVER FROM OIL TO NATURAL GAS, ELECTRICITY OR OTHER SOURCES. THE GRANTS ARE DESIGNED TO COVER 50% OF THESE COSTS.

In addition, the new National Energy Program calls for a significant revision in the revenue-sharing arrangements between the federal government, the provinces and the petroleum industry. Under the previous formula, the Provincial government concerned received 45% of the oil-gas revenue, industry got 45%, and Ottawa 10%. Under the new arrangement, the shares will be 43% to the Provincial government--- a reduction of just two per cent; 33% to industry, a drop of 13%; and 24% to the federal government, an increase of 14%.

The additional revenues that will derive from the National Energy Program will, in turn, be used to finance other much-needed programs. One in particular will be of special interest to you. We plan to set up a fund of $4 billion to finance energy and economic development in the four western provinces over the early part of the next decade. Projects to be covered by this Western Development Fund will be selected jointly by federal and provincial authorities. It is expected that these will include industrial development and diversification projects, and other programs related to agriculture and water management. This could be particularly significant for Indian people in Manitoba, where the very successful Manitoba Indian Agricultural Program has assisted 168 Indian clients and brought more than 32,000 acres under

CULTIVATION OR IN FARM USE SINCE IT WAS ESTABLISHED FIVE YEARS AGO.

RECENTLY MY COLLEAGUE, LLOYD AXWORTHY, THE MINISTER OF EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION, WAS ASKED IN PARLIAMENT ABOUT ALLOCATION OF THE WESTERN DEVELOPMENT FUND. MR. AXWORTHY, WHO IS TAKING THE LEAD RESPONSIBILITY IN CABINET FOR WESTERN DEVELOPMENT, HAD THIS TO SAY:

> "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR NATIVE PEOPLE IS BEING EXAMINED AND, CONSIDERING THE TREMENDOUS WEALTH BEING GENERATED FROM OUR RESOURCES, I PERSONALLY THINK IT WOULD MAKE GOOD SENSE TO RECYCLE MUCH OF THAT REVENUE TO HELP THOSE PEOPLE IN WESTERN CANADA WHO NEED THE MOST, NAMELY THE NATIVE PEOPLE."

I HAVE INDICATED THAT THE NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY IS A NATIONAL ISSUE OF CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE TO INDIAN AND OTHER COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE WEST. BUT OF COURSE THE OTHER ISSUE IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL TO PATRIATE CANADA'S CONSTITUTION, A PROPOSAL THAT WITHOUT QUESTION TOUCHES ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY. AND ALL INDIAN PEOPLE ACROSS CANADA.

The week of the All Chiefs' Conference was a very busy week in Ottawa, and a very important one for Canada's native people. your leaders demonstrated a vitality and an unmistakeable determination to define their relationship with other Canadians, as well as their particular rights. Many Canadians now understand clearly that Indian people see the process of patriation and amendment as central to the preservation of their distinct cultural, economic and linguistic identity.

What Indian people and the Government are really discussing in Ottawa is the framework in which people will relate to people in the future. This discussion involves the rights of individuals as North America's first citizens, as beneficiaries of the treaties, and as members of a distinct cultural identity. Eventually this will require the reconciliation of those rights --- however they are defined --- and that identity with the rights of other Canadians. That is why what is going on in Ottawa these days is so relevant, so important and so necessary.

As you may know, Parliament's special constitutional committee was to have wound up its business three days ago. That cut-off date has been extended by two months to

FEBRUARY 6. MEANWHILE, YOUR NATIONAL LEADERS DECIDED TO POSTPONE THEIR APPEARANCE BEFORE THE SPECIAL JOINT SENATE-COMMONS COMMITTEE UNTIL SOMETIME EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR.

I WANT TO SAY THAT I CANNOT OVEREMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RENEWAL PROCESS FOR INDIAN PEOPLE. AS THE COUNTRY'S ORIGINAL INHABITANTS, YOU HAVE A STAKE IN CANADA AND IN ITS FUTURE THAT IS UNIQUE. THE RENEWAL PROCESS PROVIDES YOU WITH THE MEANS OF GIVING NON-INDIAN CANADIANS A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW YOU PERCEIVE YOUR RIGHTS AND YOUR ASPIRATIONS FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT.

THANKS IN LARGE PART TO THE EFFORTS OF INDIANS AND OTHER NATIVE PEOPLE, THE NATION'S ATTENTION HAS BEEN DRAWN TO THE SPECIAL CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE. INDIAN PEOPLE HAVE A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER CANADIANS, AND TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE INDIAN POSITION, AND THIS OPPORTUNITY WILL CONTINUE AFTER THE CONSTITUTION IS BROUGHT TO CANADA. EVERY POSSIBLE STEP WILL BE TAKEN TO ASSURE NATIVE PEOPLE A FULL VOICE IN THE FORMULATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

I HAVE TALKED ABOUT MANY MATTERS THIS MORNING, AND I

HAVE WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO. I WOULD LIKE TO WISH THE FOUR NATIONS CONFEDERACY EVERY SUCCESS IN DEALING WITH THE ISSUES THAT FACE INDIAN COMMUNITIES.

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Communiqué

MINISTER'S SPEECH

TO

WHITEHORSE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FEBRUARY 14, 1981

CHECK AGAINST
DELIVERY

MINISTER'S SPEECH

TO

WHITEHORSE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FEBRUARY 14, 1981

Ladies and gentlemen, it is great to be back in friendly Whitehorse again. Especially so, since this particular visit has had to be postponed a couple of times since I originally planned it last fall. It is my understanding that you have had to change the date of your regular weekly meeting so that we could get together here today and, if that is correct, I regret very much the inconvenience I have caused you. Certainly, I would hate to think the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce would make a habit of changing its schedule as often as I have to change mine...In any event, I would like to thank you for inviting me to this luncheon.

To speak quite frankly, I have not brought with me this time any spectacular announcements of dramatic new initiatives for the Territory. Instead, I should like to report to you on the substantial progress that has been made in the Yukon in recent months in a number of key areas, the kind of steady progress which adds up to a very solid Groundwork for Growth. We are moving ahead, together, toward realistic and well-defined objectives, and we don't intend to be side-tracked.

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It can be said with some certainty that the eighties will be a period of unprecedented economic, political and social growth for Yukoners.

I read very carefully the policy paper which the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce kindly presented to me last year. It was a comprehensive and most helpful document and, at this point, I would like to quote from it one statement in particular:

"The business community has been concerned about the negative effect that the lack of a land claim settlement has had on business investment in the Yukon and the uncertainty which exists in the availability of land for development purposes."

Not only is the Federal government well aware of that concern, we share it. Indeed, the whole question of the Yukon land claim settlement could be described as the key to just about every other major developmental program and project in the Territory.

It is for this reason that I am especially pleased that negotiations are going so well. With the outstanding leadership provided by the Federal Negotiator, Dennis O'Connor, and the splendid cooperation of the Territorial Government on one side of the table, and the constructive and articulate approach of

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THE YUKON COUNCIL OF INDIANS ON THE OTHER, I THINK WE ALL HAVE REASON TO BE OPTIMISTIC. GIVEN THE CONTINUED SPIRIT OF HARMONY AND DEDICATION THAT EXISTS TODAY, IN FACT, I PERSONALLY THINK IT IS REASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE, CAN BE REACHED BY NEXT FALL.

THERE SEEMS TO BE A CONSENSUS NOW THAT WHEN A SETTLEMENT IS ULTIMATELY REACHED, IT WILL BE A FAIR AND EQUITABLE ONE; NOT ONLY FOR THE NATIVE PEOPLES IN WHOSE INTEREST THE PROCESS FIRST BEGAN, BUT FOR ALL CITIZENS LIVING IN THE TERRITORY. I AM HOPEFUL, TOO, THAT SETTLEMENT OF THE YUKON CLAIM WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT AND POSITIVE IMPACT ON CLAIMS DISCUSSIONS NOW UNDER WAY IN OTHER PARTS OF THE NORTH.

HERE IN YUKON ITSELF, WE CAN ANTICIPATE THAT ONE ELEMENT IN THE AGREEMENT WILL REPRESENT A NEW SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONTRACT WITH NATIVE YUKONERS, MAKING THEM FULL PARTNERS AND PARTICIPANTS IN THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, UNDER GROUND RULES ASSURING FAIRNESS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY TO ALL ITS CITIZENS.

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It was particularly gratifying to me that agreement was reached recently to provide interim benefits to the native elders in the Territory. I think all concerned will agree that this is simply being fair to those citizens of 60 years of age or more, the potential beneficiaries of the anticipated settlement.

These benefits, to be paid from an interest-free loan of $600,000 repayable when settlement is finally reached, will be administered by the Indian people themselves. Had the claims negotiations not been interrupted and delayed at various times over the past eight years, for a number of reasons, it is more than likely that an agreement could have been reached by this time, in which case the elders would have already been receiving substantial benefits. Certainly, in their advancing years, they should not be further penalized for delays which were not of their making.

Meanwhile, although as I've said, an overall settlement of the Yukon claim is so vital to just about all future public and private development programs in the Territory, we must press ahead with a number of other plans.

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HAND IN HAND WITH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO WHICH WE ALL LOOK FORWARD MUST GO POLITICAL PROGRESS AND EVOLUTION. FOR THE PAST YEAR, YUKONERS HAVE ENJOYED FULL RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, AT LEAST IN PRACTICE IF NOT IN STATUTE. THAT MEANS THE DECISIONS OF THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN MADE BY YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES. IT ALSO MEANS, OBVIOUSLY, THAT THEY MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE.

ONCE THE LAND CLAIM SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO RECOGNIZE THIS DE FACTO SELF-GOVERNMENT BY SOME FORMAL INSTRUMENT. I AM PERSONALLY READY, TO CONSIDER TURNING OVER TO THE YTG STILL MORE FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES -- NOTABLY IN SUCH AREAS AS MINE SAFETY REGULATIONS AND FOREST FIRE PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT.

AS I AM SURE YOUR MEMBERS ARE AWARE, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS JUST REVEALED DETAILS OF ITS OFFER TO TRANSFER TO THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT A LARGE NUMBER OF COTTAGE LOTS AND CAMPGROUNDS. INITIALLY, THIS OFFER COVERS 936 COTTAGE LOTS AND 36 CAMPGROUNDS, BUT ANOTHER 80-90 LOTS AND 17 CAMPGROUNDS WILL BE INCLUDED ONCE CERTAIN OUTSTANDING ISSUES HAVE BEEN RESOLVED RELATING TO LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT.

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JOINT FEDERAL-TERRITORIAL PLANNING STUDIES HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AROUND THE WHITEHORSE AREA. THE PUBLIC WANTS GREATER ACCESS TO BOTH FEDERAL AND COMMISSIONER'S LAND IN THE YUKON. SUCH STUDIES HAVE IDENTIFIED AREAS WHERE LANDS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE AND I WILL ENDEAVOUR IN COOPERATION WITH THE YTG TO PURSUE VIGOUROUSLY THE APPLICATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THOSE STUDIES.

FURTHER LAND PLANNING STUDIES WILL ALSO BE CARRIED OUT IN THE FUTURE, AND, I HOPE, AS LAND CLAIMS PROGRESS, WE SHOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO RELEASE AREAS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC.

OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE ALL BECOME AWARE OF A NEED FOR A NEW AND MORE EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF FEDERAL FINANCING FOR THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES. WITH THIS IN MIND, I WILL SOON BE SEEKING CABINET APPROVAL FOR A FORMULA MORE CLOSELY TIED TO THE EXPENDITURE EXPERIENCES OF CANADA'S PROVINCES. WE FEEL THAT WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE THAN CONTINUING TO BASE SUCH A SYSTEM ON THE EXPERIENCE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. IN ADOPTING SUCH AN APPROACH, OF COURSE, THERE ARE SEVERAL PRINCIPLES THAT SHOULD BE KEPT IN VIEW. FIRST OF ALL, A SYSTEM OF FORMULA FINANCING SHOULD ENHANCE THE AUTONOMY OF TERRITORIAL DECISION-MAKING IN MATTERS OF PURELY TERRITORIAL CONCERN.

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It should also strengthen the Territorial Government's accountability to the people of the Yukon. If the resolution of local problems is to depend on the skills and abilities of the Territorial Government, not only must the Territorial Government have the fiscal resources required, it must also be clear to everyone concerned that the Federal Government can no longer be expected to move in when things go wrong. Certainly it must be clear that inadequate financial support from the Federal Government will no longer be a sufficient justification for territorial policy. Accountability and responsibility must go hand in hand.

While on the general subject of decentralization and devolution, I believe you are aware that I have now received the advice of the Board of NCPC on the question of relocation of the Headquarters to the territories. In view of the central importance and high cost of energy development in the north, I believe it would be premature to consider devolution to territorial governments. However, I can state that I fully agree to the relocation of all the corporate and head office functions to north of 60°. Before being in a position to state definitively on the "what and how, and when" I shall be exploring this further with the Chairman, Jim Smith. We must address in more detail the implications, in particular, possible costs. I am sure that you would agree that any changes that might lead to the increased cost of power to northern consumers bears careful analysis.

A RELATED SUBJECT WHICH IS PREOCCUPYING THE MINDS OF MORE AND MORE CANADIANS THESE DAYS IS ENERGY -- ITS SUPPLY, THE DEMAND, PRICES AND THE NEED FOR CONSERVATION. NOWHERE IS THIS MORE TRUE THAN IN THE NORTH. AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE HAS BEEN SET UP TO EXAMINE THE WHOLE QUESTION OF NORTHERN ENERGY AND TO COME UP WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN APPROPRIATE POLICY. SOME OF THE ISSUES I WOULD LIKE TO SEE ADDRESSED ARE: HOW TO ASSURE A SECURE SUPPLY OF ENERGY FOR NORTHERNERS AT FAIR AND EQUITABLE PRICES; HOW TO INCREASE CONSERVATION AND REDUCE OIL CONSUMPTION IN THE NORTH, IN LINE WITH THE OBJECTIVES OUTLINED BY MY COLLEAGUE, THE HONOURABLE MARC LALONDE IN THE NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM;AND HOW THE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE SO NECESSARY FOR NORTHERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COULD BEST BE PUT IN PLACE. IN THE PAST, NORTHERNERS HAVE MADE STRONG REPRESENTATION TO ME REGARDING THE LACK OF PARTICIPATION AFFECTING THE SUPPLY AND PRICE OF ENERGY. I WOULD, THEREFORE, ALSO LIKE A CONSIDERATION OF HOW THE PARTICIPATION OF NORTHERNERS IN DECISIONS AFFECTING THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF ENERGY COULD BE INCREASED.

IN THE BROADER PERSPECTIVE, I BELIEVE MOST OF YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE KEY PROVISIONS IN THE NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM THAT WAS INTRODUCED WITH THE BUDGET LAST OCTOBER. CANADA IS

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FORTUNATE IN BEING ONE OF THE FEW INDUSTRIAL NATIONS IN THE WORLD WHICH PRODUCES MORE ENERGY, FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, THAN IT CONSUMES. WE ARE IN FACT A NET EXPORTER OF ENERGY. NONETHELESS, DUE TO GEOGRAPHICAL AND TRANSPORTATION FACTORS, WE STILL HAVE TO IMPORT EXPENSIVE FOREIGN OIL. THE CHALLENGE WE FACE, THEREFORE, IS TO ADAPT THE DEMAND IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY TO THE SUPPLY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME STIMULATING OUR OWN PETROLEUM PRODUCTION. THE NEW ENERGY PROGRAM PROVIDES INCENTIVES FOR CONSERVATION AND, WHERE POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE, FOR CONVERSION FROM OIL TO OTHER MORE AVAILABLE FORMS OF ENERGY. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF CANADIAN OWNERSHIP OF OUR ENERGY INDUSTRIES.

IT IS NO SECRET THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO, FOR THEIR OWN REASONS, FIND PARTS OF THE NEW PROGRAM OBJECTIONABLE. I SEE NO POINT IN ADDING TO THE RHETORIC HERE. BUT I DOUBT THAT MANY CANADIANS WOULD QUARREL WITH THE END OBJECTIVE: COMPLETE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN ENERGY FOR THE WHOLE COUNTRY BY 1990. WE ARE GOING TO ATTAIN THAT GOAL.

LAST YEAR, I ANNOUNCED THE SUPPORT OF MY GOVERNMENT TO EXPAND THE HYDRO POWER CAPACITY ON YUKON RIVER AT WHITEHORSE. THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF 20MW WOULD DOUBLE THE GENERATING CAPACITY AT WHITEHORSE AT A COST OF $26.3M.

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As we all know the intention of OPEC is to continue to maintain the price of oil at an artificially high level. Although my government has chosen to keep the domestic oil prices at a more reasonable level, however, they too would increase in the years to come. The expansion at Whitehorse hydro plant is therefore a logical development since it replaces power generated from diesel and since it provides Yukoners with much needed electrical energy from a renewable source at a reasonable and stable cost.

I spoke a few moments ago of one important task force that has been established in Yukon. Your Territorial government should be commended for setting up another one, to look into mineral development in MacMillan Pass. In a way, this complements the function of the Northern Energy Task Force, since the mining industry can't be expected to make much progress if it doesn't have the energy supply it needs, at realistic cost.

Most of the experts agree that significant mineral deposits do exist in the MacMillan Pass region and that production could in fact begin in the mid-80's. The joint industry-government task force will provide an excellent mechanism for exchanging information and ideas related to exploitation of the mineral wealth in the area.

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It is essential in my view that we break the "chicken and the egg" syndrome. I am looking to this task force to undertake the necessary initial planning and evaluation so that industry can be told, on one hand, the conditions or guidelines for development, and on the other, what support may be expected from government in terms of infrastructure, manpower training, etc.

Incidentally, I would like to say at this point that my department intends to commence an engineering study on the Canol Road this coming summer and that, subject to Treasury Board approval, we expect to spend one-million dollars on upgrading the North Canol Road in 1981-82.

On the subject of mineral development, I am pleased to note that the Yukon Government is planning a mineral symposium to be held in Whitehorse within a few months. An invitation to attend the symposium has been extended to me and my colleague, the Minister of Mines, the Honourable Judy Erola. We have both accepted the invitation and are looking forward to attending. I would hope that at this symposium both government and industry will be in a position to report significant developments related to MacMillan Pass.

On November 25 I made an announcement concerning a joint study program to be undertaken on the water resources of the Yukon River Basin. The agreement to undertake the study was

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SIGNED BY THE DEPARTMENTS OF ENVIRONMENT, MY OWN DEPARTMENT AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE YUKON TERRITORY AND BRITISH COLUMBIA. UNDER THE AGREEMENT, THE STUDY WILL ASSESS THE CURRENT AND FUTURE USES OF THE WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES AND WILL PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS. THE STUDY PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE AMONG GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES.

THE CONCEPT AND APPROACH OF THE STUDY ARE NOW BEING DEVELOPED AND A JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED TO OVERSEE THE PROGRAM. THIS COMMITTEE'S MEMBERSHIP IS COMPRISED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM ENVIRONMENT CANADA, INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF YUKON AND BRITISH COLUMBIA. MY REGIONAL DIRECTOR, DENNIS WATSON, IS THE INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMITTEE. I ANTICIPATE THAT TENDERS WILL BE CALLED IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR THE $2.2 MILLION STUDY PROGRAM WHICH SHOULD GET UNDERWAY IN 1981-82.

AND NOW THE WHITE PASS AND YUKON RAILWAY. I CONFESS IT HAS OCCURRED TO ME THAT I JUST MIGHT NOT BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE WHITEHORSE IF I DIDN'T HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ON THIS SUBJECT ... SO I WILL DO MY BEST.

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You all know that the federal government did move last summer to seek a negotiated settlement between the various parties -- the Yukon Territorial Government, Cypress Anvil Mines, the U.S. Government and the Government of Alaska. Since that time, negotiations have been somewhat up and down. But I am pleased to be able to tell you today that my Cabinet colleagues have given approval to my request for supplying assistance to the White Pass Railway. Two items will still have to be resolved before the actual cash can be made available: assistance by our friends in the State of Alaska has to be specified, and an agreement on the detailed terms and conditions attached to the contribution has still to be finalized, assuming an agreement is finalized within the next few weeks.

The Federal government will make an initial advance of $2M to White Pass before the end of March. Over the next two years a further $4M, including $1M from the YTG would be made available. These funds are to be repaid over a period of years and the funds used only toward the purchase of railway stock and equipment, locomotives and other capital improvements necessary to increase the operating efficiency of the company. The federal contribution <u>cannot</u> be used to make up a deficit in operating expenses. Mr. Fraser, the President of Federal Industries, had undertaken that any such shortfall would be covered by internal company sources.

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Furthermore, the principal user, Cyprus Anvil Mines, has agreed to a new rate structure. With this infusion of additional funds I am convinced that this historic railway can once again become efficient, competitive and a vital link in Yukon development. I would not be sincere and straightforward with you if I did not also express my disappointment in the statements attributed to Mr. Fraser in a recent speech he gave in Toronto. Such statements, if correct, are surely ill-advised. Under no circumstances would the government allow any company to exploit a monopoly position should it be in the business of fuel distribution or transportation. I sincerely hope this situation does not arise and that perhaps Mr. Fraser has been misquoted. In any event, I hope the company will move quickly to dispel such doubts about its policies and its commitment to the Yukon.

Speaking of the Yukon Government, Mr. Pearson will no doubt elaborate on the issue in due time, but I would like to express publicly my appreciation for the cooperative and constructive role Yukon Government is playing in resolving this complex issue -- and, of course, for the hard cash they have committed.

Earlier, I described the current phase in Yukon's development as constituting a Groundwork for Growth.

All the projections I've seen indicate that the economy in this Territory will probably expand and develop at a faster rate than many other areas in Canada. We think that due in large measure to the subsidiary agreements on tourism development and on the development of non-renewable resources, under the umbrella of our five-year General Development Agreement plus, I hope, a settlement of the Yukon Indian Claim. These joint programs will contribute significantly to increased investment activity and opportunity. This in turn will lead to higher employment and income levels. All in all, the short-term and mid-term prospects for Yukon point to an increase in exports of products from the Territory and a boost in reinvestment and diversification.

I have been delighted with the long-term planning and expansion which have been enunciated by Cyprus Anvil. It shows that Faro is here to stay as a full-fledged community which should be treated precisely as that, rather than as a company town with limited horizons. It is already the second largest community in the Territory and this should be kept in mind when considering the needs of Faro for services and facilities.

It is not only in the fields of industry and commerce that Yukon is forging ahead. I was very pleased to hear of the world championships in cross-country skiing which will be

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HELD HERE NEXT MONTH AND I WISH THOSE CONCERNED WITH THE ENTERPRISE ALL SUCCESS.

THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR ON SO MANY FRONTS HAS BEEN THE RESULT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN MANY AGENCIES IN BOTH THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS. AS I HAVE INDICATED TO YOU, MINERAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, PROGRESS IN SETTLING THE YUKON LAND CLAIM, RESOLUTION OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN THE WHITE PASS SYSTEM, AND TOURISM GROWTH -- NOT TO MENTION THE ALASKA HIGHWAY PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT -- ALL POINT TO AN EXCITING FUTURE FOR THE TERRITORY.

ONE OF THE MAJOR PROJECTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN THE YUKON IS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ALASKA HIGHWAY GAS PIPELINE. OFFICIALS OF MY DEPARTMENT HAVE FOR SOME TIME NOW BEEN WORKING WITH YUKONERS TO ENSURE THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS PIPELINE BENEFITS YUKONERS AND DOES NOT RESULT IN UNDUE DISRUPTION DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD. WE HAVE BEEN PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THE PLANNING TO DATE AND WITH THE SUPPORT AND COOPERATION WHICH THE YTG HAS EXTENDED.

AS YOU WELL KNOW, THE RIGHT OF MOBILITY, FOR CANADIANS TO LIVE AND WORK ANYWHERE IN CANADA IS A RIGHT WHICH THE GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO ENTRENCH IN THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION. I SEE NO REASON WHY THE INTERESTS AND CONCERNS OF ALL YUKONERS CANNOT BE ADDRESSED THROUGH MEASURES THAT WILL PROVIDE FOR EMPLOYMENT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.

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It is still my position that northern development must benefit northerners. I am particularly concerned that Native people in the North be in a position to benefit from development.

The Federal government is absolutely committed to a program of assistance and cooperation with the Territorial government in planning and promoting the development of Yukon resources.

Once again, I am very grateful for the advice and support the Chamber of Commerce has given us in the past. I am sure you will continue to play an important role as Yukoners move ahead into the 80's, a decade of development and an era in which all Yukoners themselves will define, promote and protect their own interests.

Thank you.

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Publications

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
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Communiqué

SPEAKING NOTES

FOR THE

HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

FOR THE

CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTION DEBATE

FEBRUARY 20, 1981

Madam Speaker, the Constitutional Resolution that we are now considering marks for Canada and Canadians a final essential and inevitable step in our development as a nation. I believe that we should feel pride in patriation and I believe that in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms we have a document that expresses our desire for equity and justice for all Canadians.

The Resolution and Aboriginal Peoples

For Canada's aboriginal peoples this Resolution must be doubly significant. For them it not only reinforces the same principles of freedom and justice that it does for all Canadians, but it establishes once and for all their position in this country by enshrining aboriginal and treaty rights in the fundamental laws of this country.

I know that for aboriginal peoples it is a critical milestone on the long road towards a better understanding of Canadians and Canada.

Canada's original people have a unique concern for this country which is not always well understood by other Canadians. In a sense they have been trying to explain this to us for the last hundred years. I think that part of what they have been trying to tell us is that they feel a special commitment to this land and to its political integrity because it has always been their land.

For example, as Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs I was impressed by the leadership which the Cree, the Micmac and the Inuit people gave in the Quebec Referendum. They could have stood apart from this issue, but rather they felt the integrity of their country threatened and they participated actively and successfully on the 'no' side of the question.

What I, as Minister, have come to better understand in the last year is the relationship between the cultural strength and security of Canada's original people and their commitment to this country.

If one is weakened or limited, so is the other.

The Achievement

I believe that the entrenchment of aboriginal and treaty rights in the Constitution provides the basis for maintaining the integrity of this relationship. As the Honourable Member for Nunatsiaq has said, with these principles established we can build a great country together.

If Indian, Inuit and Métis leaders have a right to feel satisfied with their achievement, so too should members of the Constitutional Committee who, as a result of this single non-partisan decision, have fundamentally changed the situation of aboriginal peoples in Canada.

Although this was an act of the Committee, several individuals have been particularly active in this accomplishment.

Putting partisan feelings aside for a moment, I feel for example that the Honourable Member for Provencher has played a critical role.

The Honourable Member for Nunatsiaq has acted not only as an effective member of this House but has represented his people with skill and commitment.

The Leader of the New Democratic Party, the Honourable Member for Oshawa has, I believe, demonstrated his deep commitment to this country and to native people in his support for the parts of the Resolution relating to aboriginal and treaty rights.

Senator Austin and the Honourable Member for NDG also provided a substantial effort to reflect the views of aboriginal peoples in the Constitution Act.

Of course, I believe my colleagues would agree the Minister of Justice has been key in achieving these far-reaching adjustments to the original Resolution and has been particularly sensitive to aboriginal peoples' interests and needs.

In the same vein I believe that the Prime Minister has demonstrated his concern for Canada's original people by responding positively and readily to their proposals.

For Indians, Inuit and Métis people the Resolution is the culmination of a long period of extensive work, and the beginning of a new period of accomplishment.

Since 1971 they have had meetings, they have lobbied, they have researched and met again and again. Sometimes these meetings have been heated, sometimes there has been confrontation, but gradually there has been increased understanding and, as important, increased mutual respect.

In this process maybe we have learned to listen better but, Madam Speaker, I think we should give credit where it belongs - to Canada's aboriginal peoples and their leaders.

Members of this House, I know, will understand and support this view. In December hundreds of Indian leaders came to Ottawa to express their views on the Constitution to us and to the country. They did this with an accomplished skill and style that we, as politicians, no doubt admire and probably envy.

But more important, aboriginal peoples have shown a sagacity and judgement that, I believe, reflects the strength and continuity of their culture as well as the capacity of their leaders and the wisdom of their elders.

I would like to mention all of these leaders by name, Madam Speaker, but the list is too long. It does include, however, such people as Del Riley of the National Indian Brotherhood, Charlie Watt and Eric Tagoona representing Inuit people, and Harry Daniels representing Métis people. Some others are in the Gallery today.

I hope the expectations of these leaders and of Canada's aboriginal peoples that have emerged through these constitutional discussions will not be disappointed. I am concerned that unless the Resolution is approved by this House, the aboriginal interests and treaty rights will become tokens in the process of negotiation.

I am particularly concerned when a person with the record of Premier Blakeney will not support this Charter.

I find it particularly surprising since he has always been a friend to aboriginal peoples. They must now be concerned that their major achievement will be lost in the end because of a lack of support from those they respect and trust.

Madam Speaker, I think that would be an intolerable disappointment for native people, in fact, for all Canadians.

Impact of the General Provisions

But frankly I believe that my colleagues will recognize the need to establish these and other fundamental rights in the Constitution. This is a good Resolution. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms embodies basic principles that are unique and essential to us as Canadians.

Beyond this, the Resolution establishes the framework for continued development of the Constitution and, in this process, commits the Government of Canada to include native representatives at the table in future discussions of constitutional matters that directly affect them.

These elements of the Resolution remove considerable uncertainty for aboriginal peoples and are a positive response to their representations and a tangible commitment to their involvement in constitutional renewal.

As a Member of this House and as a Minister of the Crown, I am proud of this measure for what it offers to all Canadians. But as Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, I am especially proud. The aboriginal peoples will share in the rights that are accorded all Canadians, rights which will put this country in the forefront among nations which truly protect human rights.

These rights that will benefit all Canadians include guarantees of basic democratic rights and fundamental freedoms, legal equity and the elimination of discrimination based on race, religion or sex.

These are rights for all Canadians but they will have special meaning for the special needs of aboriginal people. Indians, Inuit and Métis will gain real protection from discrimination in our cities and job markets as elsewhere. They have entrenched equity in our legal system, and Indian women will be protected from discrimination as Indians and as women.

For example, although no one likes the discriminatory provisions of the Indian Act, it has been difficult to reach agreement on the terms of amended membership provisions while Indians felt their basic rights in jeopardy. The Constitution Act provides both the opportunity and necessity for change so that Government and Indian people can work together to develop new provisions that will be just, equitable and appropriate to Indians' cultural interests.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons alone aboriginal peoples should support this Resolution.

Special Aboriginal Provisions

But in addition, the aboriginal peoples' unique position in this country will be recognized and strengthened in the Constitution, and equal provision is made for continuing the process of identifying and perhaps enshrining further rights.

First, aboriginal rights and treaty rights are recognized and affirmed in a special part of the Constitution Act devoted solely to this subject. The inclusion of these provisions was the occasion for one of the greatest spontaneous expressions of satisfaction that members of this House have experienced in a long time.

I BELIEVE THAT WHAT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FELT WAS THAT THEY HAD REACHED, WITH INDIAN, INUIT AND MÉTIS LEADERS, A TURNING POINT IN THE STATUS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES IN THIS COUNTRY.

I AGREE. I BELIEVE IT IS A TURNING POINT, PERHAPS A NEW STARTING POINT.

SECOND, ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS ESTABLISHED BY THE ROYAL PROCLAMATION OF 1763 AND FROM LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENTS ARE ENHANCED, AND NOT DEROGATED FROM, BY THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS ACCORDED BY THE CHARTER; A UNIQUE PROTECTION BASED ON A UNIQUE HERITAGE.

THIRD, THE CONSTITUTION ACT WILL ENSURE THAT CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS DIRECTLY AFFECTING THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLES, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE IDENTIFICATION AND DEFINITION OF THE RIGHTS OF THOSE PEOPLE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CONSTITUTION, WILL BE DISCUSSED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THOSE PEOPLE WITH FIRST MINISTERS.

THIS GUARANTEE FORMALIZES THE PRIME MINISTER'S COMMITMENT TO THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLES IN OCTOBER, 1980 THAT, IN THE NEXT PHASE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL NEGOTIATIONS, SUCH ISSUES AS:

- AN ELABORATION OF ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS;
- INTERNAL NATIVE SELF-GOVERNMENT;
- NATIVE REPRESENTATION IN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS PARLIAMENT;
- THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES;

WOULD BE DISCUSSED AND, WITH GOOD WILL, RESOLVED.

In addition to these provisions the Leader of the New Democratic Party, the Honourable Member for Oshawa, will propose an amendment during this debate to include the provision affirming aboriginal and treaty rights in Section 54 of the Constitution Act.

Madam Speaker, the Government will support this amendment.

This is a significant acknowledgement of the importance of aboriginal and treaty rights in Canada. The result of this amendment will be that aboriginal and treaty rights will be entrenched in the same manner and to the same degree as the other most fundamental provisions of the Constitution including the office of the Queen and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Aboriginal and treaty rights will be subject to change only through the general amending formula.

There is an added symbolism in this amendment that, I believe, will not be lost on aboriginal peoples. They have always regarded the Queen as the symbolic protector of their rights and freedoms. The role of the Queen is, of course, not changed by the Resolution and protecting aboriginal rights and treaty rights in the same clause as the Queen's office demonstrates the significance of the proposed amendment.

All of these are great achievements. They are important initiatives in the quest of the aboriginal peoples for full participation in the life of this nation in accordance with their own history and their own hope for the future.

<u>The Importance of Rights</u>

Madam Speaker, my personal view is that an elaboration and refinement of basic rights is critical for Canada's aboriginal peoples.

HUNTING AND FISHING IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ABORIGINAL CULTURE AND TO AN EXTENT SYMBOLIZES FOR THEM THE CONTINUITY FROM THE PAST.

FORMS OF INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT ARE IMPORTANT, PARTICULARLY FOR INDIANS AND INUIT IF THEY ARE TO REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL IN THE CANADIAN COMMUNITY.

AND THE DELIVERY OF BASIC SERVICES IN A WAY THAT IS SENSITIVE TO THE CULTURE AND SPECIAL NEEDS OF CANADA'S ORIGINAL PEOPLE IS ESSENTIAL TO THEIR CULTURAL INTEGRITY AND SECURITY.

WHAT THE CONSTITUTION ACT DOES IS TO ESTABLISH THE BASIC PRINCIPLE THAT ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND TREATY RIGHTS ARE RECOGNIZED AND AFFIRMED.

THIS WILL MEAN THAT DURING THE NEXT STAGE OF CONSTITUTIONAL RENEWAL THIS BASIC FACT WILL APPLY TO ALL GOVERNMENTS AT THE TABLE IN THE DISCUSSION TO REFINE AND ELABORATE THESE PRINCIPLES.

THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. THIS IS THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF THE NATION. IT WILL BIND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RESPECT AND SUPPORT THE RIGHTS OF OUR ABORIGINAL PEOPLES.

I HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT IN THE NEXT STAGE OF CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS THAT PROVINCES WILL COME TO THE TABLE WITH A POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE.

TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD BE TO PERMIT POTENTIAL INEQUITY AND ARBITRARINESS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLES AND THIS WOULD BE INTOLERABLE.

I believe that aboriginal peoples understand this clearly and understand the necessity of supporting this Resolution now.

Some form of established representation for aboriginal peoples in Canada's political institutions should also be considered as a further means of protecting and reinforcing aboriginal and treaty interests.

The process of claims negotiation which is now underway and which the Government is committed to pursue as vigorously as possible will help to clarify these issues. But I also believe that the terms of this Resolution will give aboriginal peoples a greater sense of security and more confidence in a positive and sensitive resolution of their claims.

In addition, as a Government we acknowledge that there is a need for other processes to discuss and respond particularly to the special needs of Indians.

This Government is therefore prepared, during the next few months, to discuss with Indian people ways of formalizing discussions between Ministers and Indians that will promote the long-term development of a more responsive and effective relationship with the Federal Government. I, personally, am prepared to take a leadership role in establishing this process.

Summary - Aboriginal Rights and Freedoms

Regardless of the outcome of future discussions on the Constitution, I believe that as a result of the proposed Charter and its provisions, no one in Canada, no government or individual, will again be able to put aside or disregard the rights of Canada's original people. For this reason, Madam Speaker, among many others, I believe that this House should approve this Resolution.

If we were not to do so at this time we would be breaking faith with Canada's Indians, Inuit and Métis who came together with representatives of this House and the Senate to develop the words that have been included in the Resolution we are now considering.

I support this Resolution and in particular these important provisions for Canada's original people. But I also recognize that this is a starting point for a new relationship and that we must build this together from this point.

The Yukon and Northwest Territories

Madam Speaker, the provisions for aboriginal people are important but so are the parts of the Constitution Act that concern the North.

The people of the North and their elected representatives are participating in a period of rapid and exciting change. This change will lead undoubtedly to a reconciliation of the native and non-native political interests; it will result in increased responsibilities for representative northern governments; and no doubt it will involve increased benefits for northerners from the resource development that will occur there.

What is at issue here is the future place of Canada's North within this nation. This is important. Symbolically and in fact this is our last frontier. The way it develops politically, environmentally and economically will be a reflection on us all.

Although we don't know the outcome of this process of change, the Resolution recognizes the importance of the North by formally confirming the role of elected representatives of the governments of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories in future constitutional discussions.

Summary

Madam Speaker, what is at stake in this debate are basic, far-reaching principles that should not be tokens in negotiations or left to the whim of separate governments. These rights define who we are among ourselves and in the international community just as surely as our capacity to amend our own Constitution signifies our maturity.

I believe that people recognize this and I believe that Indian, Inuit and Métis people also recognize what has been accomplished as a result of the constitutional discussions. I know they support this Resolution; I know they want to move forward together to build this nation based on their productive and equitable participation in a Canada that all Canadians can acknowledge with pride.

Governmer

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada

Communiqué

NOTES FOR AN ADDRESS

BY

THE HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO

MINISTER OF

INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

TO THE

YELLOWHEAD TRIBAL COUNCIL

SPRUCE GROVE, ALBERTA

FEBRUARY 26, 1981

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

NOTES FOR AN ADDRESS
TO
YELLOWHEAD TRIBAL COUNCIL
SPRUCE GROVE, ALBERTA
FEBRUARY 26, 1981

GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO JOIN YOU THIS EVENING IN SPRUCE GROVE.

SINCE IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT WE WILL BE HAVING AN OPPORTUNITY LATER TO ADDRESS SOME OF THE COUNCIL'S SPECIFIC CONCERNS, I THOUGHT I MIGHT TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW IN GENERAL TERMS TWO SUBJECTS WHICH I KNOW HAVE CRITICAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR NATIVE GROUPS IN THIS PARTICULAR PART OF THE COUNTRY, AS INDEED THEY HAVE FOR CANADIANS EVERYWHERE. I REFER TO OUR NEW CONSTITUTION -- MADE BY CANADIANS FOR CANADIANS -- WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE BROUGHT TO THIS COUNTRY WHERE IT BELONGS LATER THIS YEAR, AND TO OUR NEW NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR ALL OF US.

THESE TWO MAJOR GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES ARE CLEARLY INTER-RELATED FOR, NO MATTER HOW CAREFULLY WE PLAN TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL CANADIANS TO SHARE IN BUILDING A SECURE AND BOUNTIFUL FUTURE FOR ALL CITIZENS, IT WON'T AMOUNT TO MUCH MORE THAN AN EXERCISE IN SEMANTICS IF WE HAPPEN TO LITERALLY RUN OUT OF GAS ALONG THE WAY...SO WE ARE GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.

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From the very beginning of the Constitutional process that began last summer, I did not forget for a minute what was at stake for Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples. Many of your leaders here tonight came to Ottawa to tell me about your concerns and to insist, so eloquently, that your voices be heard and heeded as we move ahead toward the national objective. Day after day, last fall, I met with one native group after another until I could almost reach out and touch the frustrations which you were expressing. It was my job -- and a cherished one, I can tell you -- to convey your message to my Cabinet colleagues. I was delighted when arrangements were made for the Special Parliamentary Committee to hear your representatives first hand, and even more so when, at last, an amendment was accepted to include the rights of Canada's aboriginal peoples in the Charter of Rights. They are there for all time, just as inviolate as any other provision in that Act, including the institution and the role of the Queen herself.

As I said in the Constitution Debate in the House last week:

"Regardless of the outcome of future discussions on the Constitution, I believe that as a result of the proposed Charter and its provisions, no one in Canada, no government or individual, will again be able to put aside

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OR DISREGARD THE RIGHTS OF CANADA'S ORIGINAL PEOPLE. FOR THIS REASON, MADAME SPEAKER, I BELIEVE THAT THIS HOUSE SHOULD APPROVE THIS RESOLUTION."

" IF WE WERE NOT TO DO SO AT THIS TIME, " I WENT ON, "WE WOULD BE BREAKING FAITH WITH CANADA'S INDIANS, INUIT AND METIS WHO CAME TOGETHER WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THIS HOUSE AND THE SENATE TO DEVELOP THE WORDS THAT HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE RESOLUTION WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING."

THAT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IS THE WAY I SEE IT. THERE ARE MEMBERS OF OTHER PARTIES WHO DO NOT AGREE. THAT IS THEIR PRIVILEGE. MOST OF THE DISSENTING VOICES OBJECT TO THE PROCESS WE ARE USING TO BRING THE CONSTITUTION TO CANADA, MORE THAN TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE RESOLUTION ITSELF. SOME SAY WE ARE RUSHING THINGS. THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IS THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR ACTION. I BELIEVE THAT MANY OF YOU WHO MAY HAVE WATCHED ON TELEVISION THE FUTILITY OF LAST SUMMER'S SEARCH FOR A CONSENSUS, AT THE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE ON THE CONSTITUTION, WILL AGREE. ONCE AGAIN, WE WERE GETTING NOWHERE.

CANADA'S ORIGINAL PEOPLES HAVE A UNIQUE CONCERN FOR THIS COUNTRY WHICH IS NOT ALWAYS WELL UNDERSTOOD BY OTHER CANADIANS. IN A SENSE, YOU HAVE BEEN TRYING TO EXPLAIN THIS TO US FOR THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS. I THINK THAT PART OF WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN TRYING TO TELL US IS THAT YOU FEEL A SPECIAL COMMITMENT TO THIS LAND AND TO ITS POLITICAL INTEGRITY BECAUSE IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN YOUR LAND.

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So, for you, this Constitutional resolution is a critical milestone on the long road towards a better understanding of Canadians and Canada. What I, as Minister, have come to understand in the last year is the relationship between the cultural strength and security of Canada's original peoples and their commitment to this country. If one is weakened or limited, so is the other.

I take great personal satisfaction from whatever I've been able to achieve in advancing our common cause to the point we find it today. It is my sincere hope that we will have your support as the process moves forward in the weeks and months ahead.

There are still a couple of hurdles to be cleared, as you know. First, the resolution must be passed by a vote of the Canadian Parliament. Then, <u>for the last time</u>, we will ask the British House to act in accordance with the wishes of the Canadian people as expressed by a majority of their elected representatives. Personally, I hope we will run into no disappointments.

Then, with new resolve and vigour, we can continue the task of nation-building. One of our top priorities, as I've indicated, will be to ensure that we have an adequate and secure supply of energy for our future needs, at prices we can afford. We have been pursuing this objective vigorously -- simultaneously with the Constitutional Debate -- through the National Energy Program.

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FORTUNATELY, WE START FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH. CANADA IS A NET EXPORTER OF ENERGY. BUT WE HAVE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM A NUMBER OF FACTORS: THE IMMENSE SIZE OF OUR COUNTRY, WITH ALL ITS INHERENT TRANSPORTATION DIFFICULTIES AND COSTS; THE FACT THAT, ALTHOUGH WE PRODUCE A SURPLUS OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY, WE STILL HAVE TO IMPORT EXPENSIVE FOREIGN OIL; SOME REGIONAL DEMAND CANNOT BE MET BY LOCAL SUPPLY.

THE NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM WHICH WAS INTRODUCED WITH THE BUDGET LAST FALL IS DESIGNED TO OVERCOME THESE PROBLEMS. THE TARGET IS COMPLETE ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR CANADA BY 1990. TO ATTAIN THIS, INCENTIVES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED FOR CONVERSION FROM OIL TO OTHER MORE AVAILABLE FORMS OF ENERGY. AT THE SAME TIME, WE MUST FIND THE WAYS AND MEANS TO STIMULATE AND EXPAND OUR PRODUCTION OF OIL. AND, CERTAINLY, THE CONSUMING PUBLIC MUST BE PERSUADED OF THE NEED TO CONSERVE WHAT WE PRODUCE.

STILL ANOTHER THRUST OF THE ENERGY PROGRAM IS AIMED AT INCREASING THE LEVEL OF CANADIAN OWNERSHIP OF OUR RESOURCE INDUSTRIES. THIS IS A PROGRAM OF CANADIANIZATION, NOT NATIONALIZATION...

FOR GROUPS SUCH AS THE YELLOWHEAD TRIBAL COUNCIL, THE NEW ENERGY PROGRAM SPELLS CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPIRIT OF OUR NEW CONSTITUTION, AND IN THE COMMON INTEREST OF ALL CANADIANS, MEANS MUST BE PROVIDED TO ENSURE YOUR FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE DRAMATIC GROWTH WE ALL ANTICIPATE.

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First, let me say that the devleopment of Indian resources should be considered in the context of the development of an energy program for all the people of Canada. It is unfortunate that in some parts of the country, there is considerable misunderstanding about the federal government's program and this misunderstanding, or lack of understanding, has led to a certain polarizing of opinion between East and West. I regret this very much, and it is ironic, since the basic purpose of the program itself is to contribute to Canadian unity, NOT to sow the seeds of disunity.

One question I am sure we have all been exploring involves possible measures to increase Indian participation in energy development. So far, my Department has received funding requests from a number of Alberta bands to permit Indian equity participation in the Alsands project. I'm informed that even a 10-percent equity portion today could cost $2 billion. It must be clear to everyone here tonight that this is a large investment by any standard. As an investment from the public purse to create an equity position for a relatively small number of Canadians, I'm sure it would be without precedent.

However, in case I appear to be too negative, I would hasten to add that on my return to Ottawa I shall be working to find feasible methods for equity creation in energy projects for Indian People.

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In passing, I would like to make the point that viable energy projects need not be confined to tar sands development. By no means. There are a host of other possibilities: the extraction of oil by enhanced recovery methods; coal mining projects; as well as a number of very promising projects in the domain of chemical engineering, involving synthetic fuels from coal, heavy oils, tars and timber products. I believe these are all worthy of attention when we speak of Indian participation in energy development.

On the question of source funding for such enterprises, I think we should be considering investment directly by bands from capital funds.

Additionally, we could also explore means of involving a direct relationship between Indian bands and their associations and corporations with Petro Canada. These are simply areas which I feel we should explore.

It seems obvious to me that if progress is to be made in any of the directions I have mentioned, in order to enhance your position, my Department must create mechanisms for involving Indians in the process.

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In this connection, I will be making some specific proposals after further talks with groups represented here today. For the moment, I would tentatively propose the creation of two mutually supportive groups. Firstly, a group charged with making policy in this area; secondly, a group pulled together from various technical agencies to work out the nuts and bolts of any new system.

I would expect the Policy Group could draw its members from among Indian leaders, Provincial government specialists and, most assuredly, the resource industry. For the technical group, I would envisage drawing together technical talent from the fields of engineering, economics and finance.

In concluding my remarks, I would like to clarify what appears to be possible confusion resulting from my recent announcement concerning the exemption of Indian royalties from the 8% royalty tax referred to in the last budget. (Incidentally, I was most pleased that my colleague The Honourable Allan MacEachen, the Minister of Finance, found it possible to provide this exemption, which we were able to persuade him was so vital to the interests of the bands represented here tonight.)

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IT IS A COMPLEX QUESTION, TO BE SURE, AND HAS GIVEN RISE TO A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS FROM THE BANDS CONCERNED. MY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAVE NOW DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH TAX SPECIALISTS AND I WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO GIVE YOU THE FOLLOWING UNEQUIVOCAL ASSURANCES:

(A) THE 8% PRODUCTION REVENUE TAX WILL NOT BE LEVIED ON PRODUCTION FROM INDIAN LANDS.

(B) THE 8% RESOURCE ROYALTY TAX ON INDIAN ROYALTIES WILL NOT BE WITHELD OR BE PAYABLE BY COMPANIES OPERATING ON INDIAN LANDS.

(C) THE APPROPRIATE ACT WILL BE AMENDED SUITABLY TO ENSURE THAT THE ABOVE TWO PRINCIPLES WILL BE ENSHRINED IN LAW.

I AM SURE THAT AFTER WE HAVE HAD FURTHER MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS DURING MY PRESENT VISIT HERE, I WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO DISCUSS SOME OF THESE QUESTIONS WITH MY CABINET COLLEAGUES. I KNOW THEY FEEL, AS I DO, THAT EVERY POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE MUST BE PROVIDED TO ENABLE CANADA'S ORIGINAL PEOPLES TO PLAY THEIR FULL PART IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS COUNTRY AND ITS RESOURCES.

THANK YOU.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada

Communiqué

NOTES FOR AN ADDRESS

BY

THE HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO

MINISTER OF

INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

TO THE

NWT ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES

YELLOWKNIFE, FEBRUARY 27, 1981

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

NOTES FOR AN ADDRESS

TO

NWT ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES

YELLOWKNIFE, FEBRUARY 27, 1981

It is a pleasure to be in Yellowknife again, and I would like to thank your Association for their kind invitation to join you here tonight. Having served as an Alderman myself back home in Hamilton for 7 years, I have a pretty fair idea of the work involved, and the amount of it ... Under our Canadian system, all levels of government must stay in fairly close touch with the people they represent, but I would suggest this is particularly true of locally elected councils. And again, if that is so, I don't see how this kind of personal contact <u>could</u> be any closer than it is here in the North, where the populations are smaller and the people so friendly. This is certainly one of the compensations of public office at the municipal level.

As many of you are aware, I've managed through the past year to keep in pretty close touch with many of your leaders, and have watched with admiration the progress that is being made up here in a number of directions. And, just as important, the <u>spirit</u> with which all Northerners are facing their new challenges and opportunities.

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No matter how you want to look at it -- from the point of view of resource development, small business, social and political development, recreation, culture, or whatever -- the Territories face a future of tremendous promise. In moving ahead in these exciting 80's, we will be breaking new ground in the relationships not only between the North and the rest of the country, but among Northerners themselves.

One of the key instruments in forging these new relationships, to which the federal government attaches the highest priority, is the settlement of land claims throughout the Territories.

It is with this objective in view that Cabinet last October undertook a thorough review of the government's comprehensive land claims policy. That review is just about completed now and I expect to be making an announcement on our conclusions in the near future.

Without "scooping" myself here tonight, it may be helpful to go over with you some of the considerations and thinking that were involved in that process. Before doing so, however, I would like to assure your membership that the concerns which many of you have raised with me personally were kept very much in mind throughout our deliberations.

To recap quickly the principal developments over the last year, since I've been Minister, you will recall that last March an agreement was reached under which the Dene

.../3

Nation and Metis would negotiate on behalf of Mackenzie Valley natives. We've been working out the details of the negotiations with George Erasmus of the Dene and Jim Bourke of the Metis. I hope that we'll be able to make an announcement in the very near future on the appointment of the Chief Federal Negotiator.

Then, in June, Senator David Steuart was appointed Chief Government Negotiator for the COPE claim and, two months later, Bob Mitchell was named to represent the federal government in the ITC negotiations.

In December, Senator Steuart and I met with COPE representatives to review the progress that had already been made on the Inuvialuit claim and, as a result, I wrote to Senator Steuart on December 24th outlining concerns which I have with respect to certain issues under negotiation.

From the mutual acceptance of the basic principles outlined in the October 1978 Agreement in Principle, we are now engaged in translating these concepts into a final agreement. As a normal part of this process, both parties have raised concerns which have to be addressed in the spirit of give and take at the negotiating table. One of the outstanding issues is the establishment of a wilderness park on the north slope. I can assure you that any delay in concluding these discussions does not indicate that the government questions the Park's value, or its extent.

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As I have repeatedly stated to COPE and in public, the federal government is committed to negotiate towards a final settlement of the Inuvialuit claim on the basis of the Agreement in Principle, including the establishment of the proposed wilderness park.

We regret the temporary interruption in progress and I assure you the government is ready to sit down at the table again the moment it gets word from the COPE negotiators.

I understand that your Association has raised concerns, particularly as they apply to jurisdictional boundaries, the communities powers of taxation and their access to sand, water and gravel supplies, as outlined in the Agreement in Principle.

Your Association has been assured in the past that the presence of a major landholder adjacent to your communities should not affect jurisdiction over lands within municipal boundaries. Indeed, these boundaries may well be expanded in accordance with the Law of General Application.

In the cases of Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk, the existing agreement specifically provides for an adequate supply of sand and gravel. You are also aware that under the agreement, taxation of unimproved Inuvialuit land will not be permitted, but this prohibition does not apply to buildings on Inuvialuit land, thus constituting a potential source of revenue for northern communities.

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We realize your Association wants very much to lend a hand to the negotiations and we think your most effective way of doing this is through making your views known to the Territorial Government, our partners in negotiating a final settlement of this very important claim.

At the same time, I have been pleased that progress has been made in negotiating a settlement of the ITC claim, notably in the areas of land selection criteria and wildlife management. The relationship of the claims settlement to municipalities is of course a vital one, and I am encouraged to note that the ITC, as expressed in their position paper of September 1980, wish to increase the powers of local government and to extend municipal boundaries. It's my understanding that talks resume next week, in Ottawa, and I'm sure we're all looking forward to continuing progress.

So, on all claims fronts, I think it is fair to say that we are seeing some movement. I referred earlier to the new comprehensive claims policy which will be announced shortly.

Before leaving this question of land claim settlements, however, I thought it might be an interesting exercise to examine my own role as Minister and some of the problems I face. If your municipalities are better aware of some of the difficulties, then hopefully you will be better able to help with some of the solutions.

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We start with something of an inherent conflict. My Department is charged with both protecting the rights and interests of aboriginal peoples while balancing these against the needs and concerns of the Territory as a whole, and as part of Canada. When it comes to land claims, for example, I must try to balance the rights and interests of native peoples with development opportunities in the North, thereby also acting as protector of the federal government's interests. Where the goals of both sides do not coincide -- this happens sometimes -- I've got a problem.

To take it a small step forward, the Chief Negotiator in any specific instance reports to me and then I must report to Cabinet. I must say that I've been fortunate for the most part in obtaining the cooperation of my Cabinet colleagues but we definitely do have an unusual situation here and I thought I should mention it to you. Since we cannot realistically expect the whole Cabinet to sit in on our discussions, I'm afraid there is no easy solution.

I realize fully it is the Minister to whom our aboriginal groups must turn when they have a problem in this respect, but I hope now you realize he wears more than just the one hat. To use a possible analogy, I find myself in the position of a sometime team manager, sometime coach, sometime player, sometime water boy, and sometime umpire. All of which means I'm in a great position to catch hell at any one time from any direction, or from several different directions at the same time...

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WITH THE EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT OF NORTHERN LAND CLAIMS AS A CORNERSTONE, ALL NORTHERNERS WILL BE ABLE TO TURN THEIR ABUNDANT TALENT AND ENERGY TOWARD BUILDING AN EVER BRIGHTER AND MORE SECURE FUTURE IN THIS GENEROUSLY ENDOWED LAND.

THIS FUTURE WILL SURELY BE BASED ON AND REVOLVE AROUND AN INTELLIGENT DEVELOPMENT OF BOTH RENEWABLE AND NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES. IT'S EASY TO GET EXCITED BY THE BIG NUMBERS ASSOCIATED WITH OIL AND GAS AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THOSE BIG NUMBERS (DOLLARS, JOBS, TAXES, ROYALTIES) DO MEAN REAL BENEFIT TO NORTHERNERS, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT WE DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE TO MANY NORTHERNERS OF THE SMALLER NUMBERS ASSOCIATED WITH RENEWABLE RESOURCE USE. HUNTING, TRAPPING, WOOD PRODUCTS, FISH PROCESSING, ARTS AND CRAFTS AND TOURISM DON'T HAVE THE SAME GLAMOUR TO SOME PLANNERS AS A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR MINE BUT IT IS MEANINGFUL ACTIVITY THAT DOES AND WILL PROVIDE LIVELIHOOD TO MANY NORTHERNERS.

WHAT IS NEEDED THEN IN OUR PLANNING FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS BALANCE. THE BEST WAY OF ACHIEVING THIS BALANCE IS THROUGH INPUT FROM DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW WHEN YOU'RE PLANNING. I'LL BE THE FIRST TO ADMIT THAT IN THE PAST THERE HASN'T REALLY BEEN AS MUCH PLANNING FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE NORTH AS WE WOULD HAVE LIKED AND

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WHAT THERE WAS DIDN'T ALWAYS PROVIDE ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT FROM COMMUNITIES, NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS OR THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE RESOLUTION OF LAND CLAIMS, AND THE CLARIFICATION OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES THAT WILL BRING, WE'LL ALL BE ABLE TO FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION. I'M EQUALLY CERTAIN, HAVING AN EYE ON THE POTENTIAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, THAT THIS KIND OF COOPERATIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY IF WE WANT TO SQUEEZE AS MUCH NORTHERN BENEFIT OUT OF THE PROCESS AS POSSIBLE WHILE PROTECTING THOSE NORTHERN VALUES, LIFESTYLES AND ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES WE ALL CHERISH.

IN THIS REGARD I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT MY VISIT TO FROBISHER BAY THREE WEEKS AGO, TO ANNOUNCE THE NEW DRAFT GREEN PAPER ON THE LANCASTER SOUND STUDY PROJECT. WITHOUT QUESTION, THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST DRAMATIC INITIATIVES YET UNDERTAKEN IN THE NORTH.

ITS IMPORTANCE LIES NOT JUST IN ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF THIS MAGNIFICENT PART OF OUR LAND, BUT EVEN MORE SO IN THE <u>APPROACH</u> THAT HAS BEEN TAKEN. NO ONE IS RUSHING. EVERYONE IS GOING TO BE HEARD, BEFORE ANY HARD AND FAST DECISIONS ARE TAKEN. THAT MEANS LOCAL VILLAGERS, ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTS, WILDLIFE SPECIALISTS, ECONOMISTS, OCEANOGRAPHERS, BUSINESS MEN AND WOMEN, CONCERNED CITIZENS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY. WE <u>KNOW</u> WE HAVE THE

RESOURCES, THE WEALTH AND THE MEANS TO DELIVER THE GOODS. WHAT WE DON'T NEED ARE ANY FOOLISH MISTAKES, AND WE FEEL THAT THIS CAUTIOUS AND MEASURED APPROACH TO THIS PARTICULAR PROJECT CAN SET A VALUABLE PRECEDENT FOR OTHER AMBITIOUS INITIATIVES IN THE FUTURE.

THE WHOLE QUESTION OF ENERGY -- ITS SUPPLY, THE DEMAND, PRICES AND THE NEED FOR CONSERVATION -- IS A SOURCE OF GROWING CONCERN TO ALL CANADIANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. NOWHERE IS THIS MORE TRUE THAN IN THE NORTH. A TASK FORCE WHICH INCLUDES BOTH TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS HAS BEEN SET UP TO EXAMINE THE WHOLE QUESTION OF NORTHERN ENERGY AND TO COME UP WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN APPROPRIATE POLICY. SOME OF THE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED ARE: HOW TO ASSURE A SECURE SUPPLY OF ENERGY FOR NORTHERNERS AT FAIR AND EQUITABLE PRICES; HOW TO INCREASE CONSERVATION AND REDUCE OIL CONSUMPTION IN THE NORTH, IN LINE WITH THE OBJECTIVES OUTLINED BY MY COLLEAGUE, THE HONOURABLE MARC LALONDE IN THE NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM; AND HOW THE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE SO NECESSARY FOR NORTHERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COULD BEST BE PUT IN PLACE. IN THE PAST, NORTHERNERS HAVE MADE STRONG REPRESENTATIONS TO ME REGARDING THE LACK OF PARTICIPATION AFFECTING THE SUPPLY AND PRICE OF ENERGY. I WOULD, THEREFORE, ALSO LIKE A CONSIDERATION OF HOW THE PARTICIPATION OF NORTHERNERS IN DECISIONS AFFECTING THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF ENERGY COULD BE INCREASED.

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INCIDENTALLY, I DID SAY IN WHITEHORSE THE OTHER DAY THAT I HAVE NOW RECEIVED THE ADVICE OF THE BOARD OF NCPC ON THE QUESTION OF RELOCATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS TO THE TERRITORIES. IN VIEW OF THE CENTRAL IMPORTANCE AND HIGH COST OF ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO CONSIDER TURNING OVER ALL THE POWERS AND THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COMPANY TO THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, I DO STATE THAT I FULLY AGREE TO THE RELOCATION OF ALL THE CORPORATE AND HEAD OFFICE OPERATIONS NORTH OF 60. UNTIL I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THIS WITH CHAIRMAN JIM SMITH, I OBVIOUSLY CANNOT GIVE YOU THE "WHAT, HOW AND WHEN" OF THE SITUATION. ALSO, I'M SURE YOU WILL AGREE THAT ANY CHANGES THAT MIGHT LEAD TO THE INCREASED COST OF POWER TO THE NORTHERN CONSUMER WOULD NEED THE MOST CAREFUL SCRUTINY.

IN THIS CONNECTION, I'M SURE YOU ARE AWARE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECENTLY APPROVED A $1.5 MILLION PROGRAM TO PROVIDE ENERGY SUBSIDIES TO RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL BUSINESS CONSUMERS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES. THE OBJECTIVE, CLEARLY, IS TO BRING INTO LINE WITH THE MAJOR CENTRES OF YELLOWKNIFE AND WHITEHORSE THE COSTS OF ENERGY IN THE SMALLER COMMUNITIES NORTH OF 60.

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In the broader perspective, I believe most of you are familiar with the key provisions in the National Energy Program that was introduced with the budget last October. Canada is fortunate in being one of the few industrial nations in the world which produces more energy from various sources, than it consumes. We are in fact a net exporter of energy. Nonetheless, due to geographical and transportation factors, we still have to import expensive foreign oil. The challenge we face, therefore, is to adapt the demand in different parts of the country to the supply, while at the same time stimulating our own petroleum production. The new energy program provides incentives for conservation and, where possible and desirable, for conversion from oil to other more available forms of energy. At the same time, it is the government's intention to increase the level of Canadian ownership of our energy industries.

If there is good reason for Northerners to look ahead to the growth in their resource industries with optimism, there are also areas of obvious concern. Not least among these is the question of how the revenue from this development is going to be shared. While the ownership of such resources rests and will remain with the Crown, our joint purpose and challenge must be to work out ways to ensure every Northerner his or her proper share in future benefits.

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Among the guiding principles in any approach to this question is, I suggest, the need to reduce the financial dependence of the Territorial governments on assistance from Ottawa; to provide direct benefits to the Territorial governments and, indeed, to acknowledge more directly the cost of resource development to the Territorial government.

In his opening address to four session of the 9th Legislative Assembly earlier this month, Commissioner Parker express "strong disappointment" that the federal government had not amended the mobility rights provision in our new proposed charter of rights. He is not alone in expressing concern on this particular issue.

There is no question that the government is committed firmly to the rights of all Canadians to live and work anywhere in Canada. It is still my position, however, that northern development must benefit Northerners. I am particularly concerned that native people in the north be properly trained and equipped to grasp these opportunities when they appear, and the proposed Charter of Rights does nothing to impede such affirmative action programs for disadvantaged groups.

I am confident that if Northerners are allowed to compete fairly for jobs and business they don't need any discrimination against southern Canadians. The key will be to insure Northerners get a fair chance, are prepared in advance and that the competition isn't set up to favour the

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THE BIG GUYS OR HOT SHOTS FROM DOWN SOUTH. THE PROPOSED CHARTER OF RIGHTS DOESN'T PREVENT US FROM DOING THESE THINGS AND I INTEND, FOR MY PART, TO MAKE SURE THEY HAPPEN.

REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF FUTURE DISCUSSIONS ON THE CONSTITUTION, I BELIEVE THAT AS A RESULT OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER OF RIGHTS, NO ONE IN CANADA, -- NO INDIVIDUAL OR GOVERNMENT -- WILL AGAIN BE ABLE TO PUT ASIDE OR DISREGARD THE RIGHTS OF CANADA'S ORIGINAL PEOPLES.

THE PROVISIONS FOR ABORIGINAL RIGHTS ARE IMPORTANT, BUT SO ARE THE PARTS OF THE CONSTITUTION ACT THAT CONCERN THE NORTH.

THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH AND THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES ARE COMMITTED TO A PROCESS OF CHANGE. THIS CHANGE WILL NO DOUBT TO A RECONCILIATION OF NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE POLITICAL INTERESTS;IT WILL RESULT IN INCREASED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR OUR NORTHERN GOVERNMENTS, AND IT WILL INVOLVE INCREASED BENEFITS FOR NORTHERNERS FROM THE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL OCCUR HERE.

WHAT IS AT ISSUE HERE IS THE FUTURE PLACE OF THE NORTH IN THIS NATION. SYMBOLICALLY AND IN FACT, THIS IS OUR LAST FRONTIER. THE WAY IT DEVELOPS POLITICALLY, ENVIRONMENTALLY AND ECONOMICALLY WILL BE A REFLECTION ON US ALL.

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AND NOW I'D LIKE TO SAY A WORD OR TWO ABOUT NORTHERN COOPERATIVES. IT IS ALREADY FOUR YEARS SINCE THE FIRST FIVE-YEAR CO-OP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WAS BEGUN AND I AM VERY PLEASED THE MOVEMENT HAS FLOURISHED SO SPLENDIDLY AND THAT CAP AND CACFL ARE ABOUT TO UNITE. THE FACT THAT THE 45 CO-OPS AFFILIATED WITH THE TWO GROUPS DID ABOUT $27 MILLION WORTH OF BUSINESS LAST YEAR SPEAKS FOR ITSELF AND FOR THE CONFIDENCE WE FELT IN 1977 THAT THIS WAY WAS THE RIGHT WAY TO GO. I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE ALL THOSE CONCERNED.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR INVITING ME TO JOIN YOU THIS EVENING. I HAVE ENJOYED MYSELF.

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Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada

Communiqué

NOTES FOR A SPEECH

BY THE

HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

TO THE

UNION OF NEW BRUNSWICK INDIANS

FREDERICTON, N.B.

MARCH 13, 1981

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank you for inviting me to join you here today in Fredericton. I've had occasion in recent weeks and months to discuss many of your specific concerns with Chief Graydon Nicholas and other leaders who have represented you so well in meetings we have held in Ottawa, but I especially welcome the opportunity to address your membership as such. Perhaps, together, we can now take a look at some recent national developments and how they affect Canada's original peoples.

Incidentally, next week I will have the privilege and pleasure of speaking to the Union of Nova Scotia Indians. As you may be aware, it was Chief Stanley Johnson who asked that we in government discontinue use of the term "native peoples," feeling that it was too vague and inappropriate. This is just one of the requests on which we have been able to act quickly and positively and you will note that the Constitutional Resolution now being debated in the House of Commons does not use this term. Instead, reference is made variously to Canada's "aboriginal peoples" and, more specifically, to our "Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples."

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MUCH HAS BEEN SAID AND WRITTEN ABOUT THIS WHOLE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION, NOT ALL OF IT FAVOURABLE. SOME PEOPLE IN CANADA -- A MINORITY, WE FEEL -- STILL QUARREL WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF THE RESOLUTION, BUT MOST OF THE CIRITICISM IS DIRECTED AT THE PROCESS THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN OBLIGED TO FOLLOW.

WE ARE ACCUSED OF "RUSHING THINGS" AND PAYING LITTLE HEED TO THOSE WHO THINK WE ARE TAKING THE WRONG APPROACH. NONSENSE. ONLY LAST SUMMER WE TRIED DESPERATELY ONCE AGAIN, AT THE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE ON THE CONSTITUTION, TO REACH AN AGREEMENT OR EVEN A CONSENSUS ON PATRIATION AND AMENDMENT AND ONCE AGAIN WE FAILED, AS WE HAD SO MANY TIMES BEFORE DURING THE LAST HALF-CENTURY. THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA CONCLUDED THERE HAD BEEN ENOUGH TALKING AND THAT THE TIME FOR ACTION HAD ARRIVED.

DURING THE GREAT PUBLIC DEBATE WHICH PRECEDED THE QUEBEC REFERENDUM LAST MAY, WE HAD PROMISED APPROPRIATE ACTION TO BUILD A NEW CANADA IN WHICH THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS AND RIGHTS OF ALL ITS PROVINCES, AND ALL ITS PEOPLE, WOULD BE RECOGNIZED AND PROTECTED BY STATUTE. THE STARTING POINT, CLEARLY, WAS TO BRING THE CONSTITUTION TO CANADA WHERE IT BELONGS, COMPLETE WITH A CHARTER OF RIGHTS THAT WOULD GIVE SUBSTANCE AND MEANING TO OUR PROMISES. SO WAS BORN THE CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTION NOW BEFORE THE HOUSE.

.../3

It quickly became apparent that Canada's original peoples, in particular, were not satisfied with the resolution in its initial form. They felt it did not go nearly far enough in asserting and guaranteeing their rights. Your own New Brunswick chiefs joined others from across the country in making their concerns known to me personally. I conveyed their message to my colleagues in Cabinet and I hope you have derived as much satisfaction from subsequent developments as I have.

As a result of the strong and persuasive case presented by your leaders to the Special Parliamentary Committee, amendments were introduced and adopted which do indeed enshrine in the Constitution your Treaty and aboriginal rights.

It is true that many Indians would have liked to see these rights enunciated in more detail, but that involves some highly complex considerations which can best be addressed jointly, by the government and original peoples together, once we have the Constitution in our hands. You will see that we have made a further commitment to do precisely that.

It was Del Riley, President of the National Indian Brotherhood, who expressed the opinion that the amended Constitution Act creates a "good solid base" on which to build a brighter and more secure future for Indians across the land.

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Now I'd like to deal with some of the points which Chief Nicholas raised when he appeared before the Committee.

He asked the government and the committee to recognize and entrench the principle of aboriginal rights. This has been done. In making this request, he himself pointed out that the concept of aboriginal rights cannot be precisely defined at this time, but that the Indian people insisted on entrenchmen. of the PRINCIPLE so that a renewed dialogue could follow.

So on this important question, too, we have been able to accede to your wishes.

Your request for constitutional status for your Treaties has also been met. The impact of this upon federal legislation such as the Fisheries Act, the Migratory Birds Act, the National Parks Act and others cannot yet be predicted. Obviously, through the kind of discussions which will take place and with the assistance of judgements by the courts we will discover the nature of that impact in due course.

Finally, Mr. Nicholas stipulated that the Indians' trust relationship with the federal government must be maintained. Let me assure you on this point that no changes are comtemplated. The Constitution Act confirms aboriginal

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AND TREATY RIGHTS IN ADDITION TO THE SPECIAL STATUS YOU ALREADY HAVE IN CANADA BY VIRTUE OF ARTICLE 91(24) OF THE BNA ACT. THE NEW RESOLUTION WILL NOT CHANGE SUCH PROVISIONS IN THE ACT.

I HOPE YOU WILL AGREE THAT THIS GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE MARKS AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN YOUR OWN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND THAT, AS SUCH, YOU WILL GIVE IT YOUR SUPPORT IN THE CRITICAL WEEKS AND MONTHS AHEAD. YOU ARE AWARE, I'M SURE, THAT ONCE THE BILL IS PASSED BY A MAJORITY OF THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF CANADA, IT WILL BE REFERRED TO THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT FOR APPROVAL.

THIS WILL BE THE <u>LAST TIME</u> THAT WE AS A NATION HAVE TO SEEK APPROVAL OUTSIDE OUR OWN BORDERS FOR OUR OWN MADE-IN-CANADA LEGISLATION...

NOW I WOULD LIKE TO TURN TO ANOTHER SUBJECT WHICH HAS BEEN RECEIVING A LOT OF PUBLIC ATTENTION IN RECENT MONTHS -- ENERGY. WITHOUT ADEQUATE AND SECURE SUPPLIES OF IT, NO COUNTRY OR COMMUNITY IS GOING TO MAKE MUCH PROGRESS IN ANY DIRECTION. INDUSTRY DEPENDS ON IT, SO DOES TRANSPORTATION, AND SO DOES THE COMFORT WE ALL ENJOY IN OUR HOMES.

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You will recall the crisis a few years ago when the OPEC nations raised their prices so dramatically and turned down their taps. The Western nations still haven't recovered fully from the trauma that resulted. It scared all of us, and the Canadian government realized we had to do something to make sure that we would never again find ourselves at the mercy of unreliable and greedy suppliers of oil.

Fortunately, we were able to start from a position of strength, since Canada happens to be a net exporter of energy. We have more than enough to meet our needs but, some regions do not produce all the oil they need. What we needed was a system that would take maximum advantage of our own resources, to the benefit of <u>all</u> Canadians, and allow us to dispense with the heavy expense of importing foreign oil. That, in capsule form, is what the National Energy Program that was introduced with the budget last fall is going to do for us.

Incentives have been provided to encourage industrial and residential consumers to switch from oil to other forms of available energy. That can mean gas, coal, wood or hydro-electric power, all of which we produce in quantities greater than we are at present using. At the same time, experts tell us we have huge potential sources of our own oil, still largely

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UNTAPPED, AND THE NEW PROGRAM WILL STIMULATE EFFORTS TO FIND IT AND EXPLOIT IT. ANOTHER OBJECTIVE IS TO INCREASE CANADIAN OWNERSHIP OF ALL OUR RESOURCE INDUSTRIES, THEREBY REDUCING OUR DEPENDENCE ON OTHERS.

EMPHASIS IS ALSO BEING PLACED ON CONVINCING ALL CANADIANS OF THE NEED TO CONSERVE WHAT WE PRODUCE. I AM AFRAID THAT, AS A NATION, OUR RECORD IN CONSERVATION IS NOT IMPRESSIVE.

IN NEW BRUNSWICK, GRANTS OF UP TO $800 ARE AVAILABLE TO COVER ONE-HALF THE COST OF CONVERTING FROM OIL HEATING TO OTHER SOURCES. HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT AT THE MOMENT INCLUDE ELECTRICITY BECAUSE MUCH OF THE ELECTRICITY USED IN THIS PROVINCE COMES FROM OIL-FIRED GENERATING PLANTS.

I OUGHT TO POINT OUT, THOUGH, THAT WHEN NEW BRUNSWICK POWER HAS SUBSTITUTED COAL FOR OIL AS FUEL FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY, CONVERSIONS TO THIS FORM OF ENERGY WILL BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR THE GRANTS UNDER THE NEW NATIONAL PROGRAM. INCIDENTALLY, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL PAY FOR 75 PERCENT OF THE COST OF CONVERTING THERMAL GENERATING STATIONS IN NEW BRUNSWICK FROM OIL TO COAL.

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Conversions to coal, wood and other renewable forms of energy are eligible immediately for the grants to which I've referred. Conversions to natural gas will qualify as soon as the gas pipeline has been extended to the East Coast.

In the case of conversions from oil to wood, the grant is available if at least 50 percent of the heating requirements are provided by wood. In other words, a wood stove with oil as a back-up system would be eligible. I am informed that about 140,000 homes in New Brunswick are currently oil heated. The target is conversion of at least 114,000 of these by 1990.

All told, expenditures under the National Energy Program in New Brunswick over the next four years are expected to total $290-million. If you add that to what the government intends to spend in other Provinces, you will see that the program is in fact both national and very expensive. That is why, in the Canadian tradition of sharing, we have had to introduce some measures which are not popular in some parts of Canada. We remain hopeful, however, that those who presently oppose the program will eventually see it that way and accept is as a national obligation and necessity.

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As energy becomes more available at reasonable cost throughout this Province, as in others, industrial opportunities are bound to increase. And that will mean more employment opportunities, too. To make sure that Indians are able to participate fully in this anticipated expansion, it is obvious that they must have access to the necessary educational facilities and resources. This is an area to which my Department is giving very high priority. In fact, more than one-third of its financial and human resources are dedicated to educational activity.

One of the immediate objectives in the 1980's is to improve the quality of education services delivered to Indian communities, whether these services are delivered through Federal, Provincial or Band school systems.

Another urgent priority is the expansion of local control of Indian education through greater community involvement.

Progress is being made in both directions.

At present, approximately 45,000 Indian children receive their elementary and secondary education through the Provincial school systems, 27,000 through federal schools operated by the

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Department and 7,500 through schools operated by Bands or groups of Bands.

By 1980, 450 of the 573 Indian Bands in Canada had organized school committees or boards and were either wholly or partially controlling the education programs in their communities. This area of control included the operation of 137 Indian on-reserve schools. Our latest figures indicate that some 7,500 Indian children are attending these schools.

Further evidence of the growing control Indians are assuming over their own educational systems can be found in the following trends and developments:

* Increased development of kindergartens and pre-kindergartens on reserves.
* Increased recognition of indigenous languages as the medium of instruction and as subjects of the curriculum.
* Increased professional preparation and employment of Indian people as educators in the system.
* Development of curriculum materials on Indian history, literature, culture, values, customs, traditional ceremonies and crafts.

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* The developing role of Cultural-Educational centres in this process.

* Establishment of Federal-Provincial-Indian committees to monitor materials and methods used in Provincial schools and to assist in developing new approaches.

With the accelerated movement toward Band-operated schools, it is anticipated that by 1986, the enrolment pattern will show a considerably higher rate of student retention at the secondary school level than at present. The long-term objective in this area is to have a retention rate at least equal to the general Canadian level.

Now, I have saved for the last a few personal observations on an issue which I know is especially contentious here. I refer to Section 12(1)(b) of the Indian Act, and what could or should be done about it.

As you are aware, I as Minister have provided an opportunity for any Band which wishes to do so to opt out of this clause. Frankly, there have been few takers. I am quite familiar with the case of Sandra Lovelace here in New Brunswick and the emotions it has stirred up.

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My own opinion is that the Indian Act provision at the root of this problem is in fact discriminatory and, sooner or later in the light of the realities of the 1980's, it is going to have to go. This is one of the issues which will receive our urgent attention after we have patriated the Constitution, along with other parts of the Indian Act which are also iniquitous. Even if no earlier action is taken, these undesirable provisions will be automatically superceded and replaced by the Constitution three years after its adoption.

In concluding my remarks, may I say that, whether it be in New Brunswick or B.C. or Ontario or anywhere else in Canada, progress is certain to bring with it some problems. But these should be viewed simply as challenges. With your desire and determination to build a better future for your people, I don't think there is anything you won't be able to handle. Certainly, the government stands ready to help you in any way it can.

Thank you.

Government Publications

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada

Communiqué

NOTES FOR A SPEECH

BY THE

HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO

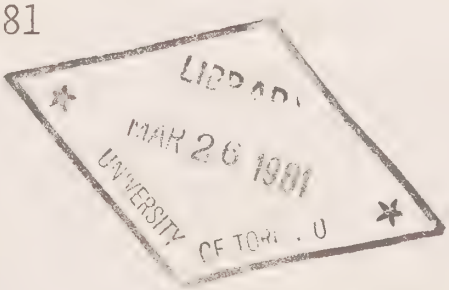
MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

TO THE

UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA INDIANS

SYDNEY, N.S.

MARCH 20, 1981



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank the Union of Nova Scotia Indians for their kind invitation to join you for this meeting here in Sydney...

Over the past few weeks and months, I've had the pleasure of meeting quite a few of you in Ottawa and to hear about the concerns that have been on the minds of many Nova Scotia Indians. A good number of them are local and quite specific in nature, so I thought I would take this opportunity today to review recent developments of more general interest, some matters which I believe hold particular significance for Indians throughout the Province and, indeed, across the land.

A good place to start, perhaps, is with the new Constitution that we in government hope will be brought to Canada later this year, complete with a new Charter of Rights, so clear and unequivocal that it has already been acclaimed beyond our own borders.

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As you are aware, the Constitutional Resolution is now being debated at length in the House of Commons and, once passed , will be submitted to the British Parliament for approval. This will be the <u>last time</u> that Canadians are obliged to turn to a government other than their own for permission, to pass a law affecting their own destiny as a nation. Our ties with the Commonwealth will continue, of course, but I hope you will agree that it is only fit and proper that a sovereign nation should make such decisions for itself.

There is a parallel here, in a way, to what Canada's original peoples want -- more autonomy. That means more power to determine your own future in Canada, to develop your land and your resources, to educate your children, to build security for your families, to protect your culture and heritage, and to participate in our development as a nation in order to share fully in the resulting benefits. Above all, it means the recognition and entrenchment of your aboriginal and Treaty rights.

That was the message I received very clearly in my meetings with so many Indian leaders last fall, and that was the message I conveyed to my Cabinet colleagues on your behalf. It was therefore with a sense of great satisfaction that I welcomed the amendments which have now been written into the Resolution and which will guarantee those rights for all time to come. I think most Canadians are proud of that achievement.

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Some of your leaders would have liked to see your rights spelled out in greater detail, but this involves questions of great legal complexity and it will take time. However, the government has given a further commitment to work closely with you to better define these rights once the Constitution has actually been brought to this country.

In the meantime, our number one priority is to get the bill passed in our own House, and I hope you will give us your support in the critical weeks and months ahead.

I think we have come a long way toward meeting the concerns articulated so well by Chief Stanley Johnson when he appeared before the Parliamentary committee last January. Certainly, the response from other leaders involved in the renewal process has been positive. Peter Ittinuar, an NDP Member and Inuit leader, called it a "momentous occasion" for Canada's original peoples. My predecessor in this portfolio in the last Conservative government, Jake Epp, said he felt "honoured" to have been able to participate in the process. And the NDP's Indian Affairs critic, Lorne Nystrom, concluded that a "new chapter" in Canada's history was about to be written.

I hope that Chief Johnson will be somewhat reassured by the recognition of the Royal Proclamation of 1763 in the Constitutional proposal, (Sec. 25), which does refer to the rights of Indian tribes and nations.

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It was also Chief Johnson who indicated that the term "native people" was vague and inappropriate and should be dropped. You will note that this has been done. The resolution refers, instead, to "aboriginal peoples" in Sections 25 and 35 and to "Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples" in Section 33. Again, the government has listened to you and acted.

When the Constitutional instrument itself arrives in Canada, we will be in a better position to do still more to help you achieve your future political, economic and social objectives.

I mentioned a few moments ago the economic growth that Canadians can expect in all parts of the country, and that includes Nova Scotia. But no matter how far-sighted our planning may be, we are not going to get too far without the necessary energy sources and supply. Canada happens to be one of the world's more fortunate countries in this respect. We are a net exporter of energy. We produce more natural gas, wood, coal and electricity than we can use and sell the surplus abroad. But, as we all know, we still have to import expensive foreign oil into some regions of Canada.

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We want to get away from this dependency on unreliable and costly sources of energy and we will do just that. Under the National Energy Program introduced with the budget last October, we expect that Canada will become completely self-sufficient in energy within the next decade.

The new national program, as you no doubt are aware, provides for the extension of natural gas pipeline service to the Atlantic Coast and incentives are being offered to get consumers "off oil". But "off oil" does not necessarily mean "on gas". When available at reasonable prices, of course, many residential and industrial users will convert to gas. But incentives are also provided for conversion to coal, and this is especially important here in Nova Scotia. Incidentally, I see that my good Cape Breton friend and colleague Allan MacEachen, the Minister of Finance, recently announced that $110 million has been made available for further development and research at the Donkin and Prince properties....

Over the next four years, in fact, the national energy program has earmarked $175 million to pay up to 75 percent of the cost of converting oil-fired electricity plants to coal; another $100 million during the same period for the development of promising technologies in the utilization of coal. And there's another $4 million for coal research as such.

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THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE IS TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF COAL IN AREAS WHERE THE SUPPLY IS ABUNDANT, BUT ONLY WITH DUE REGARD TO THE MAINTENANCE OF STRICT ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF PERMITTING ANY REAL RISK TO OUR LAND, WATER OR ATMOSPHERE. WE HAVE A RICH NATURAL HERITAGE AND IT WILL BE PROTECTED.

CONVERSION FROM THE USE OF OIL TO COAL, GAS, WOOD, PEAT OR OTHER RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY IS ONLY ONE THRUST OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAM. THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO STIMULATE THE DISCOVERY OF NEW PETROLEUM SOURCES, AND IS TAKING OTHER MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE CANADIAN OWNERSHIP OF ALL OUR RESOURCE INDUSTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME, EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WILL BE DONE TO PERSUADE CANADIANS EVERYWHERE OF THE NEED TO CONSERVE WHAT WE PRODUCE. THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT WE HAVE BEEN EXCESSIVELY WASTEFUL IN THE PAST, AND THIS WE CAN NO LONGER AFFORD.

THIS AMBITIOUS LONG-TERM PLAN TO MAKE BETTER USE OF THE ENERGY THAT WE OURSELVES PRODUCE AND TO DISPENSE WITH THE IMPORTATION OF COSTLY FOREIGN OIL IS BOUND TO HAVE A BENEFICIAL SPIN-OFF EFFECT ON OTHER INDUSTRIES AND SMALL BUSINESS. AND THIS MEANS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT.

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This brings me to a subject which I know is of deep concern to all of you, as it is to the government. I refer to the need to provide Indians with the educational facilities and resources that will enable them to take full advantage of these future opportunities. I wonder whether you are aware, incidentally, that one-third of my Department's financial and human resources are committed to Indian education. That will amount to $279 million in 1981-82.

To give you some idea of how this commitment has grown, I might point out that assistance for post-secondary education alone has jumped from about $346,000 eleven years ago to more than $18 million for the present fiscal year. Across the country, some 6,000 Indians are now enrolled in universities and colleges.

Our highest priority as we move ahead into the 80's lies in the improvement of the <u>QUALITY</u> of education services available to Indian communities, whether those services are delivered through federal, provincial or Band school systems. Our number two priority is the extension of local control over Indian education through greater community involvement.

In Nova Scotia, for example, the Eskasoni Band last September assumed full control over its own educational program. This is quite an undertaking when you consider that the school in question is one of the largest Reserve schools in Canada.

As Indians take over more and more of their own educational facilities and programs, they are obviously going to need more and more teachers. To meet this need, the Indians of both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are engaged in one of the largest teacher training programs in the country. Some 100 trainees are now involved in the program being conducted at the Nova Scotia Teachers College and the University of New Brunswick. In fact, I was pleased to hear that a number of courses are being provided on the Eskasoni Reserve.

As with all systems in the process of transition, the development of Indian-controlled education programs has of course run into a few problems.

One of these relates to the question of capital funds which my Department has invested in Provincial schools on behalf of Indian students. In cases where Indian communities wish to provide their own services through Band-operated schools on-reserve, and where other joint capital agreements are in place with Provincial schools, we are faced with an obvious dilemma. How are we going to reconcile our desire to meet the community's aspirations for new school facilities with our obligations to the joint schools? Our funds are not unlimited. This is one of the key issues with which we will be coming to grips in the near future.

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With the movement to Band-operated schools, and through increased community involvement, it is anticipated that by 1986 a much higher ratio of Indian students will pursue their education through the secondary school level. The long-term objective is to have a retention rate in Indian high schools at least equal the general Canadian level.

Another important educational thrust lies in the activities of the Cultural/Educational Centres Program. The aim here, too, is to transfer responsibility for this program to an autonomous Indian authority. At the moment, 59 such centres across the country share an annual federal contribution of $5.3 million.

I am pleased to note that here in Sydney the Micmac Association of Cultural Studies is operating a successful program with the help of federal funding amounting to $146,000 annually. Some of your specific projects sound especially interesting, such as the production of a Micmac hymnal, a number of seminars relating to the adoption of a new Micmac alphabet, and the joint production with CBC and the Nova Scotia Department of Education of the film "Micmacs Prior to European Contact". I personally would very much like to see that film myself when it is finished.

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In short, I believe there is reason for the Union of Nova Scotia Indians to look to the future with confidence. The new Canadian Constitution, when it gets here, will provide the inviolable legal framework through which you will be able to determine your own priorities and achieve your own political, economic and social objectives. That will mean a fuller and more satisfying life for all your people, and <u>that</u> is an objective in which you have my fullest support.

Thank you.

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Communiqué

SPEAKING NOTES
FOR THE
HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO
MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT
MARCH 24, 1981

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



This morning I would like to provide you with some background concerning the kinds of problems facing my Department and at least some general notions as to what I personally believe are some of the changes that we may have before us over the next few years.

In the coming weeks you will be hearing a variety of witnesses. Some of these will be officials but some will be representatives of native and northern groups. I hope the perspective that I will try to provide today will be useful to you in hearing what these people have to say.

As you know issues relating to policy for Indians, Inuit and the North are very complex and any opportunity to try to define a consensus should not be missed.

INDIANS

Most of you are well acquainted with the conditions the Indians experience. These were described in some detail in a report issued by the Department last year. Generally, what it illustrated was that status Indians are disadvantaged compared to other Canadians. They experience more health problems.

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THEIR HOUSING IS NOT ADEQUATE. THEY EXPERIENCE MORE UNEMPLOYMENT. THEY HAVE LOWER LEVELS OF EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT.

ALL OF THESE CONDITIONS SEEM TO PROCEED FROM THE DEPENDENCE AND ISOLATION OF CANADA'S ABORIGINAL PEOPLES. THIS, IN TURN, IS REINFORCED BY THE LACK OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN OR NEAR MANY INDIAN COMMUNITIES. ANOTHER FACTOR IS THE LACK OF CLARITY IN TERMS OF FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLES.

I SHOULD ALSO ADD THAT, CONTRARY TO OUR OVERALL POLICY, THE EMPHASIS OF OUR PROGRAMS REMAINS ON MAINTENANCE RATHER THAN DEVELOPMENT. THIS REMAINS A MAJOR DILEMMA WITH TWO PARTICULAR CHARACTERISTICS:

FIRST: SIMPLY SPENDING MONEY IS NOT THE ANSWER. MORE FUNDS ARE INDEED NECESSARY FOR DEVELOPMENT BUT THIS INVESTMENT REQUIRES NEW INNOVATIVE FORMS AND THE CONFIDENCE AND PARTICIPATION OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE.

SECOND: CHANGE WILL NOT COME OVERNIGHT. THIS MEANS A BIG INVESTMENT FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS BEFORE WE SEE REAL ACHIEVEMENT AND LOWER SOCIAL COSTS.

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WHAT THIS MEANS, AND WHAT I THINK INDIAN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TELLING ME OVER THE LAST YEAR, IS THAT ALONG WITH ADJUSTMENTS IN PROGRAMS THERE HAS TO BE A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE POSITION OF INDIAN PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY.

IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT I FEEL THAT WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS IS SO IMPORTANT. FOR THE FIRST TIME INDIAN'S ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND TREATY RIGHTS HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED.

ALTHOUGH THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF WORK TO DO IN TERMS OF DEFINITION, PASSAGE OF THE CONSTITUTION ACT WILL PROVIDE SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND ENSHRINEMENT OF THEIR RIGHTS IN THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF THE LAND.

CERTAINLY THIS IS ONLY ONE STEP BUT IT IS A BASIC CHANGE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND IF IT ISN'T COMPLETED INDIAN PEOPLE WILL HAVE SUSTAINED A MAJOR LOSS. WITHOUT THIS GUARANTEE WE WILL PROBABLY BE FORCED TO CONTINUE AS WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST AND WE KNOW THAT ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH.

BUT I AM AN OPTIMIST, MR. CHAIRMAN. I THINK WE CAN MAKE MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS. MY PERSONAL PRIORITIES THAT I WILL BE DISCUSSING WITH INDIAN LEADERS DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

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First: We must clarify rights, jurisdictions and responsibilities for Indians and other aboriginal peoples through the second phase of Constitutional negotiation;

Second: With Indian people and the provinces, we must make a concerted effort to establish social services and other programs that are accessible and appropriate for Indians, both on and off-reserve;

Third: Legislation must be put in place that will allow Indian Bands to assume legally defined forms of Government at the Band level, at the option of the Band.

During the next two years, we must support these policy initiatives with renewed and expanded efforts in economic development and additional support -- particularly to reduce the impact of some of the more intractable social problems including poor housing, alcohol abuse, and the quality and appropriateness of Indian education.

We have already taken initiatives in relation to housing. During the past year an additional $20 million has been made available bringing the total available to around $60 million.

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THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN MODIFIED TO ALLOW FOR HIGHER SUBSIDIES IN ORDER TO MAKE THE PROGRAM MORE PRACTICAL AND EFFECTIVE.

THIS WAS AN INTERIM STEP. MY COLLEAGUE, THE HONOURABLE PAUL COSGROVE, THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR CMHC AND MYSELF ARE REVIEWING THE EXISTING RURAL AND NATIVE HOUSING PROGRAM. WE WILL BE PROPOSING ADJUSTMENTS BOTH TO HIS DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAM AND MINE THAT COULD PROVIDE A MAJOR STIMULUS FOR ON-RESERVE HOUSING AS WELL AS NATIVE HOUSING OFF-RESERVE.

I AM ALSO CONCERNED THAT THE INDIAN ACT CONTINUES TO ALLOW DISCRIMINATION TO OCCUR AS A RESULT OF MEMBERSHIP PROVISIONS. THERE IS STILL NO CONSENSUS AMONG INDIAN PEOPLE AS TO HOW WE SHOULD DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES. HOWEVER, THE CONSTITUTION ACT ONCE PASSED WILL REQUIRE THAT THESE ADJUSTMENTS BE MADE SOME TIME WITHIN THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

IN THE MEANTIME, WHEREVER LEGALLY POSSIBLE, I AM PREPARED TO USE THE TERMS OF THE ACT TO ACCOMMODATE BANDS THAT REQUEST AN EXEMPTION FROM THE APPLICATION OF THE ACT.

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For example, a number of Indian bands have been exempted at their request from a section of the Indian Act which results in the loss of Indian status at age 21 for some Indians. Several more bands are expected to apply for exemption in the future.

Under Section (12)(1)(a)(iv) any Indian born of parents who were married after September 4, 1951, whose mother and father's mother were not Indians prior to marriage, lose their status when they reach the age of 21. Several Indians have lost their status this way since this section was created by the Indian Act of 1951.

Among the Bands that have requested exemption from this provision are the Nipissing Band in Ontario, the Fisher River Band in Manitoba, and the Westbank and Lower Similkameen Bands in British Columbia, and the Gaspe Band in Quebec. Similar exemptions were given last year to the Odanak, Hurons of Lorette and Abenakis of Benacour Bands in Quebec.

LAND CLAIMS

Members of the Committee will also recognize that dealing with claims is essential to Indian and Inuit development and political development in the north.

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THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO TRYING TO DEAL WITH OUTSTANDING COMPREHENSIVE CLAIMS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THESE ARE CLAIMS THAT ARISE FROM OUTSTANDING OR UNNEGOTIATED ABORIGINAL INTERESTS.

IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT LAND CLAIM SETTLEMENTS WILL INVOLVE SUBSTANTIAL CASH PAYMENTS, LAND CONSIDERATIONS AND OTHER FORMS OF COMPENSATION. THESE BENEFITS TOGETHER WILL PROVIDE A KEY TO THE EXTENSION OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT; TO REDUCE THE SOCIAL ISOLATION AND DEPENDENCE OF NATIVE GROUPS, AND TO THE PRESERVATION OF THEIR LANGUAGES AND CULTURE.

IN ANY NEGOTIATING PROCESS, DIFFERENCES AND DISAGREEMENTS ARE BOUND TO OCCUR. FOR ITS PART, THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE THE WHOLE ISSUE OF LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACROSS THE COUNTRY HIGH PRIORITY, AND WE WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE, PROMPTLY AND FAIRLY, ANY PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE SO THAT PROGRESS IS NOT IMPEDED. WE WILL ALSO STRIVE TO ELIMINATE POSSIBLE GROUNDS FOR GRIEVANCE DURING THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

IN RELATION TO SPECIFIC CLAIMS WE HAVE LONG RECOGNIZED THAT OUR PRESENT PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH THESE ISSUES IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY OPEN AND OBJECTIVE AND DOES NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY RESPECT OF INDIAN PEOPLE TO MAKE IT SUCCESSFUL. AS A RESULT MY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE PROBLEM WITH RESEARCH STAFF OF A NUMBER OF INDIAN GROUPS DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS.

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My objective is to have a renewed policy for settling specific claims in place this year. My hope is that improvements can be introduced into the process which will allow us to deal more rapidly with outstanding grievances in a way that will be seen to be fair and open and that, as a result, Indians will acquire a greater sense of confidence and equity in their relations with Government.

THE NORTH

Now, let us turn our attention to the North. Although local circumstances, conditions, approaches and priorities may differ from those applying to Canada's Indian communities, the ultimate objective for all people "North of 60" is similar: Greater political, social and economic self-sufficiency and full participation in Canada's future development.

Again, one of the prerequisites to the attainment of these goals is the settlement of outstanding land claims. Since we last met, good progress has been made in our negotiations with ITC and with the Council of Yukon Indians.

Resolution of these outstanding issues will put our Northern Native peoples in a better position to build -- with assistance from the Federal government - a secure future.

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Aside from land claims, other questions still to be resolved include the responsibilities of the Territorial governments, financial relationships with the Federal government, and political relationships between native and non-native Northerners.

Because of national energy requirements, resource development in the North takes on special significance. Such development must proceed in a way that is compatible with Canada's national interest and the interest of Northerners. At the same time, adequate safeguards must be provided to protect the environment and the cultural heritage of native Northerners. All citizens in the North, as well as the Territorial governments, must share in the benefits resulting from such future development.

Our policy effort in the North must therefore address all these issues. I believe the key to this is to establish a clear understanding among all Canadians -- those in the north and the south -- a clear understanding of the relationship between Canada and its Northland. I also believe that once this understanding is established full responsible government in the North is required to ensure a balanced and equitable approach to development and growth.

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BASED ON THIS MY PRIORITIES WOULD BE:

FIRST: TO DEVELOP A MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF GOVERNMENT ROLES BETWEEN TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

SECOND: BASED ON THIS UNDERSTANDING, COMPLETE THE DEVOLUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES TO NORTHERN GOVERNMENTS.

THIRD: INTRODUCE WHATEVER LEGISLATION IS NECESSARY TO FORMALLY ESTABLISH FULL RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

I BELIEVE, WITH GOODWILL AND SUCCESSFUL CLAIMS NEGOTIATION WE CAN COMPLETE THIS PROCESS BY 1985.

IN THE MEANTIME, MY OFFICIALS WILL BE WORKING WITH TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS TO WORK OUT NEW FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WILL BE MORE FLEXIBLE AND APPROPRIATE TO THIS EVOLVING RELATIONSHIP. IN ADDITION MY OFFICIALS ARE ALSO WORKING WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND APPROPRIATE NORTHERN GROUPS ON A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES INCLUDING:

- SUPPORT FOR THE YUKON AND WHITEPASS RAILWAY;
- ENERGY POLICY IN THE NORTH
- NEW AND MORE EFFECTIVE APPROACHES TO FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT;
- REVISED LAND PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT POLICIES;

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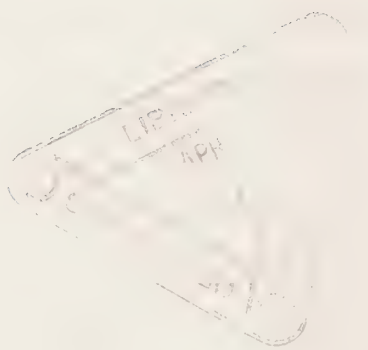
- SUPPORT FOR NORTHERN NATIVE BROADCASTING

WE ARE ALSO PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH ENSURING A BALANCED APPROACH TO RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH. THE LANCASTER SOUND REVIEW PROCESS THAT IS NOW UNDERWAY IS ONE APPROACH TO ENSURE THAT ALL INTERESTS ARE HEARD IN RELATION TO MAJOR PROJECTS.

ALL OF THESE INITIATIVES WILL CONTINUE BUT CERTAINLY IN THE CONTEXT OF OVERALL EVOLUTION TOWARDS A NEW RELATIONSHIP.

I HAVE TRIED TO DESCRIBE TO THE COMMITTEE THE BROAD OUTLOOK WITH WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS APPROACH ITS FUTURE RELATIONS WITH CANADA'S ORIGINAL PEOPLES, AND THE PART THEY WILL PLAY IN BUILDING THE NATION'S FUTURE. IT COULD BE SAID THAT OUR OVERALL COMMITMENT IS TO A MAJOR AND FUNDAMENTAL IMPROVEMENT OF CONDITIONS AMONG INDIAN, INUIT AND METIS AND TO STIMULATE AND ASSIST THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH. AS TIME GOES ON, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE SEEKING PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL FOR MEASURES DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE THESE ENDS.

THANK YOU.



Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada

Communiqué

OPENING REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT, APRIL 7, 1981.

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MR. CHAIRMAN, LAST TUESDAY I MET WITH YOU AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE TO RECEIVE YOUR STATEMENT CONCERNING PROBLEMS BEING ENCOUNTERED WITH REGARD TO THE JAMES BAY AGREEMENT.

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, I HAVE RECEIVED NUMEROUS REPRESENTATIONS FROM BOTH THE CREE AND INUIT OF JAMES BAY OUTLINING THEIR CONCERNS WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT. AS MINISTER OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS, I ASSURE YOU THAT I AM SINCERELY CONCERNED WITH ENSURING THAT CANADA AND THE OTHER PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT FULFILL ALL THEIR OBLIGATIONS.

AS I ANNOUNCED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS LAST WEEK, I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH MY COLLEAGUE THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND WE HAVE DECIDED TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA. THAT REVIEW WILL ATTEMPT TO CLEARLY DEFINE WHAT CANADA'S LEGAL OBLIGATIONS ARE UNDER THE AGREEMENT, BUT OF EVEN MORE IMPORTANCE IT WILL LOOK AT WHETHER CANADA HAS CONFORMED TO BOTH THE SPIRIT AND INTENT OF THE AGREEMENT. IF THE REVIEW SUBSTANTIATES CLAIMS THAT CANADA HAS NOT FULFILLED ITS OBLIGATIONS EITHER LEGALLY, OR IN TERMS OF THE SPIRIT AND INTENT OF THE AGREEMENT, I WILL BE MAKING WHATEVER RECOMMENDATIONS ARE NECESSARY FOR ACTIONS TO REMEDY THAT SITUATION AS WELL AS TO IMPROVE THE ACTUAL PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION.

I WILL ALSO BE EXAMINING WHETHER, IN LIGHT OF THE EXPERIENCE GAINED OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, THERE MAY BE STEPS THAT CANADA SHOULD BE TAKING WHICH WERE NOT CONTEMPLATED IN THE AGREEMENT BUT ARE NEVERTHELESS REQUIRED TO ENSURE ITS FULL IMPLEMENTATION.

I KNOW THAT DURING THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS, AND ESPECIALLY AT THE SESSIONS WITH THE CREE AND INUIT LEADERS, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ATTEMPTED TO THOROUGHLY AND HONESTLY INVESTIGATE THIS ISSUE. I WOULD LIKE TO RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT THE COMPLEXITY OF THE AGREEMENT - THE MAIN AGREEMENT ALONE IS 455 PAGES - SHOULD GIVE REASON TO BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT MAKING HASTY CONCLUSIONS ABOUT ITS SPIRIT AND LEGAL INTENT OR THE ACTIONS THAT CANADA HAS TAKEN IN IMPLEMENTING IT.

AS YOU KNOW, NOT ONLY DOES THE AGREEMENT INVOLVE 6 SEPARATE PARTIES BUT WITH REGARD TO CANADA ALONE THERE ARE AT LEAST 5 OR 6 FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES WHICH HAVE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES. I KNOW THAT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WANT TO SEE QUICK ACTION AND I HAVE INSTRUCTED MY OFFICIALS TO CARRY OUT THE REVIEW AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT ALSO WITH THE THOROUGHNESS AND CARE WHICH THIS MATTER DESERVES.

AS HONOURABLE MEMBERS MAY BE AWARE THE AGREEMENT WAS NEGOTIATED UNDER VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT WERE NEGOTIATED DURING ALMOST NON-STOP NEGOTIATING SESSIONS, HELD OVER A PERIOD OF A FEW WEEKS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE SIGNING OF THE FINAL AGREEMENT ON NOVEMBER 11, 1975.

THE REASONS FOR THE LAST MINUTE RUSH TO COMPLETE NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT IMPORTANT NOW, BUT THE RESULT OF THAT RUSH IS IMPORTANT. THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT CLEARLY TESTIFIES TO THE HASTE WITH WHICH IT WAS DRAFTED. MANY PROVISIONS ARE AMBIGUOUS OR VAGUE AND IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND HOW MANY SECTIONS COULD HONESTLY BE INTERPRETED IN RADICALLY DIFFERENT WAYS. THE TASK THAT CONFRONTS ME AS MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS - AND I MIGHT NOTE THAT I AM THE 5TH MINISTER SINCE THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED - IS TO ARRIVE AT AN INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH IS A TRUE REFLECTION OF WHAT WAS INTENDED.

ONE OF THE LESSONS FOR BOTH GOVERNMENT AND NATIVE PARTIES TO LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF JAMES BAY, AND IN THIS REGARD I FULLY AGREE WITH CHIEF DIAMOND AND MR. WATT, IS THE IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING THAT AGREEMENT TEXTS CLEARLY AND UNAMBIGUOUSLY REFLECT THE UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED BETWEEN THE PARTIES. THE NEED TO DRAFT A CLEAR AND PRECISE TEXT MAY PROLONG NEGOTIATIONS BUT IT WILL HELP TO ALLEVIATE MANY OF THE PROBLEMS OF IMPLEMENTATION.

IN REVIEWING THE IMPLEMENTATION, I WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT NOT ONLY THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT BUT ALSO THE MASSIVE DOCUMENTATION ACCUMULATED DURING AND AFTER THE NEGOTIATIONS. OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE CONSULTED TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT CANADA MADE COMMITMENTS OR UNDERTAKINGS WHICH ARE NOT BEING FULFILLED. I WILL OF COURSE ALSO CLOSELY EXAMINE THE DOCUMENTATION SUBMITTED TO ME BY BOTH THE CREE AND THE INUIT.

IN LIGHT OF THE REVIEW I AM UNDERTAKING, IT WOULD BE PREMATURE FOR ME TO COMMENT ON ALL THE SPECIFIC ISSUES RAISED IN THE STATEMENT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, THERE ARE A FEW GENERAL COMMENTS I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE.

WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF MY REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION, I AM AWARE THAT THE PROBLEMS BEING EXPERIENCED BY THE CREES, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO SANITATION AND HOUSING, ARE REAL PROBLEMS THAT REQUIRE ACTION. IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS I PLAN TO TRAVEL TO SOME OF THE COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN QUEBEC IN ORDER TO MAKE MY OWN ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AND TO DISCUSS WITH THE NATIVE PEOPLE THEIR VIEWS ABOUT THE JAMES BAY AGREEMENT.

REGARDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES IN THE CREE COMMUNITIES OF NEMASKA AND RUPERT HOUSE, WHICH WERE AS YOU KNOW THE SITE OF SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS LAST SPRING, MY DEPARTMENT SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CREES ON DECEMBER 11, 1980 CONCERNING A REMEDIAL MEASURES PROGRAM IN THOSE COMMUNITIES. I CAN ALSO REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE THAT CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT FACILITIES IS NOW UNDERWAY IN BOTH COMMUNITIES. OFFICIALS OF MY DEPARTMENT'S QUEBEC REGION ARE PRESENT TODAY AND ARE PREPARED TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PROGRAMS BEING UNDERTAKEN IN NEMASKA AND RUPERT HOUSE.

I HAVE NOTED YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING A FORMAL IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS AND STRUCTURE. I AGREE WITH THE COMMITTEE THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE A REAL NEED FOR AN EFFECTIVE MECHANISM TO WORK OUT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT.

THERE ARE VARIOUS PROVISIONS IN THE AGREEMENT FOR ADVISORY AND DECISION-MAKING COMMITTEES. MANY OF THESE COMMITTEES HAVE WORKED EFFECTIVELY BUT OTHERS SUCH AS THE JOINT ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, HAVE NOT FULFILLED THEIR MANDATE. GIVEN THE PROPER CLIMATE OF GOOD-WILL IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO REVITALIZE COMMITTEES SUCH AS THE JOINT COMMITTEE. ON THE OTHER HAND, AS YOU HAVE RECOMMENDED TO ME, IT MAY BE DESIRABLE TO ESTABLISH NEW BODIES OR MECHANISMS TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF IMPLEMENTATION.

REGARDING THE OVERALL PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION, I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT MANY OF THE PROGRAMS AND MECHANISMS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE AGREEMENT ARE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OTHER SIGNATORIES TO THE AGREEMENT. CANADA IS OF COURSE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, TO ENSURE, TO THE EXTENT THAT IT CAN, THAT ALL PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT DO INDEED FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. I HOPE THAT THE REVIEW THAT IS BEING UNDERTAKEN WILL HELP US TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL.

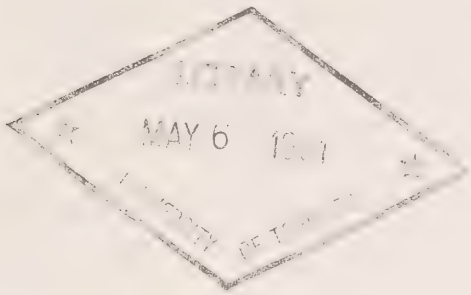
I WELCOME QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THIS OR ANY OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN TO YOU.

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NOTES FOR A SPEECH

BY THE

HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

TO THE

INDIAN HOMEMAKERS ASSOCIATION OF B.C.

VANCOUVER, B.C.

APRIL 30, 1981

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Communiqué

Good Afternoon.

May I first of all thank the B.C. Homemakers Association for the kind invitation to say a few words here today? For my <u>own</u> part, I don't manage to get home nearly as much as I would like to these days and it is perhaps for this very reason that I have a <u>special</u> appreciation of what home life can and should mean to us all. There can be few groups in Canada, Indian or non-Indian, with a more challenging or meaningful job than the one you have taken upon yourselves. For no matter how we may succeed in business, in education, in sports, politics or whatever, none of it means too much if we don't have a decent home to return to at the end of the day.

At the same time that home will not be a happy one if there is a shortage of food, clothing, or affection. All the skills, talents and crafts of the homemaker will be wasted if she has nothing to work with.

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THIS BRINGS ME TO THE RIGHTS OF ALL CANADIANS TO SHARE FULLY IN THE BENEFITS THAT THIS LAND CAN PROVIDE. TOO OFTEN IN THE PAST, EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES HAVE BEEN WEIGHTED IN FAVOUR OF THE PRIVILEGED. TOO OFTEN, THE QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE HAS DEPENDED ON ACCESSIBILITY TO URBAN SERVICES AND FACILITIES. TOO OFTEN, MINORITIES HAVE BEEN EXPLOITED BY MAJORITIES. AND I DON'T NEED TO TELL THIS PARTICULAR AUDIENCE ABOUT SEXUAL OR RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, ALTHOUGH I WILL BE COMING BACK TO THIS SUBJECT SHORTLY.

THESE WERE SOME OF THE CONSIDERATIONS BEHIND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S DECISION LAST SUMMER TO PATRIATE THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION, ALONG WITH AN AMENDING FORMULA AND A CHARTER OF RIGHTS. WE HAD TALKED FOR FIFTY YEARS AND GOT NOWHERE. THE TIME HAD COME FOR ACTION.

BUT THE TALKING STILL HADN'T QUITE FINISHED. WHEN THE CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED LAST FALL, IT TOUCHED OFF THE LONGEST PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE IN CANADA'S HISTORY. SO IT CAN HARDLY BE ARGUED BY REASONABLE CANADIANS THAT WE ACTED WITH UNSEEMLY HASTE....

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THE GOVERNMENT WELCOMED THE DEBATE. AS PART OF THE PROCESS, INDEED, A SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE WAS SET UP TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF CANADIANS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY. AMONG THOSE WHO APPEARED BEFORE IT WERE A NUMBER OF INDIAN LEADERS WHO WITH GREAT ELOQUENCE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION OF THEIR RIGHTS, THE SAME CONCERNS MANY OF THEM HAD EXPRESSED TO ME PERSONALLY AND WHICH I HAD CONVEYED TO MY CABINET COLLEAGUES.

AS A RESULT, AN AMENDMENT WAS INTRODUCED ENSHRINING ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS, ALONG WITH OTHER RIGHTS WHICH WILL APPLY TO ALL CANADIANS.

IT IS TRUE THAT MANY INDIAN LEADERS WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEE THESE RIGHTS SPELLED OUT IN GREATER DETAIL. BUT SOME HIGHLY COMPLEX ISSUES ARE INVOLVED AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS SAID IT WILL DISCUSS THIS QUESTION WITH INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES ONCE THE CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO CANADA, WHERE IT BELONGS.

AS I INDICATED, THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS CONTAINS OTHER PROVISIONS DEALING WITH CERTAIN RIGHTS GUARANTEED TO ALL CANADIANS -- INDIAN AND NON-INDIAN ALIKE. SOME OF THESE WILL REMOVE FOR ALL TIME THE THREAT OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX OR RACE. BUT UNDER TERMS OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, THEY WON'T COME INTO FORCE FOR THREE YEARS.

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In the meantime, as you well know, the Indian Act does in fact discriminate against Indian women in a number of ways. One of the most objectionable clauses, 12 (1) (B) takes away a woman's Indian status when she marries a non-Indian. In my opinion, this is indefensible. That is why last year, in my capacity as Minister, I offered to assist any band which wished to do so to opt out of this clause.

There are other offensive clauses in the Act as they pertain to Indian women, and I would suggest to you that if we are not going to wait around for three years -- at which time they will be superceded by terms of the new Constitution -- serious thought should be given to amending the Indian Act accordingly. This is an issue on which I would be very pleased to have your advice and guidance. I will give careful consideration to your views.

Another question closely related to that of the rights of Indian women is the rights of Indian children. I consider the two morally inseparable, for who can be more concerned about the care and welfare of children than their parents? I know this is an issue about which the B.C. Homemakers have strong feelings. So do I.

THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH A SYSTEM WHICH GIVES RISE TO THE PERCEIVED NEED TO TEAR CHILDREN AWAY FROM THEIR HOMES, PARENTS, OFTEN TO BE PLACED IN A NON-INDIAN ENVIRONMENT. IF WE CAN COME TO GRIPS WITH THE REASONS FOR THIS DEPLORABLE STATE OF AFFAIRS, MAYBE WE WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

SO LET US LOOK AT SOME OF THE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS. ONE OF THEM CERTAINLY HAS BEEN THE TRADITIONALLY PATERNALISTIC ATTITUDE OF GOVERNMENT AT VARIOUS LEVELS. I THINK THIS SITUATION IS CHANGING, BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH TO KEEP UP WITH CHANGING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

THE SITUATION HAS NOT BEEN HELPED BY THE LACK OF MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIAN COMMUNITIES AND THE CONSEQUENT MIGRATION OF SO MANY YOUNG INDIANS TO THE CITIES. MANY DIFFICULTIES HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERED IN PROVIDING APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE NATIVE CANADIANS WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN AN UNFAMILIAR ENVIRONMENT AND WITHOUT THE NECESSARY TRAINING TO FIND A JOB. ALL MANNER OF JURISDICTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVING FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIC AUTHORITIES ENTER INTO THE PROBLEM AND IT IS SOMETHING WHICH DEMANDS URGENT ATTENTION. IN OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION, WE HOPE WE WILL BE ABLE TO COUNT ON SUPPORT FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR, TOO.

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Meanwhile, the social vitality of Indian communities has suffered. Traditional family relations have broken down. Financial resources are severely strained. As a result, Indian communities have been unable to provide foster homes in the numbers needed to look after children requiring such care.

I think the best way to deal with problems like this is to attack them at the source, rather than to treat them on an emergency or ad-hoc basis. In the case at hand, I feel that one answer lies in expanding Indian Government at the band level and the Federal Government, working with Indian leaders, is giving this objective high priority.

Children also have rights, among them the right to protection from neglect or abuse as defined by the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child. In some instances, such protection must be provided through recourse to the law, and I think this is a position supported by all reasonable Canadians.

Let us not forget, either, that parents have certain legal rights with respect to their children. They have a right to expect from the community in which they live programs and services to help them meet the needs of their children. It might be pointed out that communities have not always availed themselves of opportunities which do exist, even today, to help them provide such support.

In this country, the provinces have jurisdiction in matters relating to child protection and have accordingly enacted child welfare legislation.

Legally, a number of court rulings have concluded that such Provincial legislation does in fact apply to Indian children on reserve. The reasons for this are that there are no Federal statutes dealing specifically with this question and, as I think you are aware, Indians are covered by so-called laws of general application where such laws are NOT inconsistant with the Indian Act.

Some provinces have argued, however, that Indian people, especially those living on reserve, are exclusively and totally a Federal responsibility. Quite often they have applied their legislation to Indians ONLY if Ottawa will meet the costs. To make sure that Indian children have the protection of such laws when they need it, the Federal Government has accepted some financial responsibility in these cases and has entered into appropriate agreements with the provinces. We have such an arrangement with the province of British Columbia.

It might be useful here to see how the existing procedure works, or is supposed to work... Upon receipt of a complaint that a child is being neglected, a social worker must carry out an investigation and submit a report to the proper authorities.

IF IT APPEARS THAT THE COMPLAINT IS A VALID ONE, A COURT HEARING MUST THEN BE HELD. KEEP IN MIND THAT IT IS THE COURT, NOT THE CHILD WELFARE WORKER, WHO DECIDES WHETHER THE CHILD SHOULD BE KEPT UNDER PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT CARE OR BE RETURNED HOME. I AM QUITE AWARE THAT TOO FREQUENTLY THERE ARE PROBLEMS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE SOCIAL WORKERS AND PARENTS, AS WELL AS A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING BY INDIAN PEOPLE OF THE COURT PROCEDURES. ALSO, THEY MAY NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THEM WHICH ARE AIMED AT PREVENTING A FAMILY BREAKDOWN. THAT IS ANOTHER REASON WHY WE SEE MANY INDIAN CHILDREN PLACED UNDER PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT CARE AWAY FROM THEIR PARENTS AND THEIR HOME ENVIRONMENT, SOMETIMES FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.

SO I CAN WELL SEE WHY ONE B.C. BAND DECIDED TO PASS A BY-LAW ON CHILD WELFARE. UNFORTUNATELY, ALTHOUGH IT HAS NOT BEEN DISALLOWED, THE BY-LAW WOULD NOT STAND UP IN COURT SIMPLY BECAUSE NOTHING IN THE PRESENT INDIAN ACT GIVES A BAND COUNCIL OR THE MINISTER ANY POWER IN THE FIELD OF CNILD WELFARE.

NONETHELESS, THE PRESSURES ARE UNDERSTANDABLY MOUNTING. ONE ALTERNATIVE IS A SPECIAL INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT, AND PARLIAMENT COULD CERTAINLY ENACT SUCH LEGISLATION. AS THE RESPONSIBLE MINISTER, I WOULD BE QUITE PREPARED TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITIES OF SUCH AN ACT, BUT THE POSSIBLE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES MUST BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WOULD BE VERY PLEASED TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS.

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BUT THAT COULD TAKE SOME TIME, AND I THINK THE PROBLEM COMMANDS FAR MORE URGENT ATTENTION. WHAT IS NEEDED NOW ARE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE INDIAN COMMUNITIES WITH A GREATER MEASURE OF INFLUENCE AND CONTROL WHILE STILL ENSURING ADEQUATE PROTECTION AND CARE FOR CHILDREN IN NEED.

THAT IS ONE APPROACH. BUT THERE ARE OTHER THINGS WHICH THE COMMUNITIES CAN DO NOW TO PROVIDE FOR THE WELFARE OF THEIR CHILDREN. THEY CAN AVAIL THEMSELVES OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES DESIGNED TO PREVENT FAMILY BREAKDOWNS. SOME BANDS NOW HIRE THEIR OWN PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLORS. IN ORDER TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN PROVINCIAL WELFARE WORKERS AND THE COMMUNITY, ONE PERSON CAN BE NAMED BY THE BAND AS THE PRINCIPLE POINT OF CONTACT. CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEES CAN ALSO BE FORMED TO HELP PARENTS UNDERSTAND WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO THEM AND TO FIND FAMILIES IN THE COMMUNITY WHO MIGHT AGREE TO SERVE AS FOSTER FAMILIES FOR INDIAN CHILDREN. SUCH A COMMITTEE COULD ALSO HELP IN ARRANGING ADOPTIONS, WHERE DESIRED. STAFF OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY IN WHICH YOU MIGHT CONSIDER THEIR SERVICES USEFUL.

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THESE ARE SOME OF THE STEPS WHICH CAN BE TAKEN NOW OR IN THE NEAR FUTURE. BUT AS I INDICATED TO YOU EARLIER, THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION LIES IN THE ASSUMPTION BY INDIANS OF GREATER CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION AT THE BAND LEVEL. THAT WILL BE A KEY DEVELOPMENT IN THE STEADY PROGRESS OF CANADA'S INDIAN PEOPLE TOWARD A FUTURE OF ECONOMIC SECURITY, CULTURE INTEGRITY, AND FAMILY FULFILLMENT. MAY I WISH THE B.C. HOMEMAKERS WELL IN THE PURSUIT OF THEIR OBJECTIVES?

THANK YOU.

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NOTES FOR REMARKS
BY THE
HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO
MINISTER OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS,
IN DEBATE OF BILL C-48
IN THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1981

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madame Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to speak to the motions which have been grouped together for this debate. Each of them deals with some aspect of oil and gas spills and the consequent threat of environmental damage.

Needless to say, the government is extremely sensitive to this danger and will continue to do everything within its power to prevent any such accidents. At the same time, we are realists and while we demand every care and caution we must also be prepared for the worst, should it ever happen. Appropriate measures have been designed to cope with any emergency that might arise.

As members are aware, the motions we are now debating are just eight of 57 on the Order Paper dealing with Bill C-48. That may sound like a lot, but I think it is a very healthy sign indeed. It reflects an awareness and real appreciation of the importance of legislation designed to bring long-term benefits to the country as a whole, and, which has special significance for Northern Canadians.

Each proposed amendment deserves our careful attention, certainly. But in dealing with specific clauses and provisions we may run a risk of losing sight of the overall thrust and objectives of the Bill itself.

For that reason, Madame Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to give a somewhat broader focus to our deliberations and to correct certain persistent misconceptions. I think some are attributable to honest and understandable misinterpretation of some parts of the Bill, some to perceived but unintentional ambiguity in its provisions, and perhaps others to deliberate distortion.

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As Minister responsible for Northern Affairs, I am responsible for the political, economic and social development North of Sixty, for the overall administration of Northern resources, and the co-ordination of federal activities in the two territories. Let me say categorically that nothing in Bill C-48 alters that responsibility in any way. It does however, provide new opportunities for achieving Northern objectives.

The Bill will be administered jointly by my colleague, the Honourable Marc Lalonde and myself, according to our respective jurisdictions. We have worked together closely in the preparation of this legislation' our two Departments are pooling their talents and resources with the creation of the Canada Oil and Gas Lands Administration (COGLA) to achieve a shared national objective.

I think it would be worthwhile to expand on some of the provisions of Bill C-48 to ensure that there is no confusion in anyone's mind as to the responsibilities of my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and myself.

Let's make no mistake that the ultimate political accountability for this Bill North of sixty falls on my shoulders as Minister of Northern Affairs.

The interpretation of "Minister" uner the two Acts covered by Bill C-48, identifies the separate jurisdiction of the Minister of Northern Development relevant to 'Canada Lands' in the Territories and in the offshore of Canada's Arctic coast.

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My colleague, the Honourable Marc Lalonde and I, have agreed that the oil and gas management functions of our two Departments will be pooled into the Canada Oil and Gas Lands Administration to be headed by an Administrator who will be the designated official of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Minister of Northern Affairs, relevant to each Minister's respective jurisdiction as required by the Bill.

The Administrator will report to the Deputy Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and to the Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs, and at their direction, will relate on policy matters to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Energy regarding energy policy, and to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs concerning northern policy.

A Policy Review Committee including both Assistant Deputy Ministers shall provide policy guidelines and review COGLA policy decisions to ensure they are consistent with the requirements of energy policy and northern policy. The Committee will be the instrument by which activities of COGLA are integrated and harmonized with activities retained by both Departments.

I am directly accountable as Minister for the following:

A) environmental management and protection including responsibility for the Environmental Studies Fund north of the line of administrative convenience defined in Schedule "VI", Canada Oil and Gas Land Regulations

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B) Socio-economic benefits for the people resident in the Territories

C) Negotiating strategies and agreements with Territorial Governments

D) Co-ordination of the policy and overall planning in relation to major resource development North of Sixty.

The Management of oil and gas rights in the Northwest Territories, Yukon and adjacent continental margins is but one element of my overall responsibility in the North. I have also been assigned responsibility for safeguarding the northern environment, for social and constitutional development and, of course, native land claims.

In carrying out these responsibilities, I want to emphasize that we must strive to achieve balance in development; balance between renewable and non-renewable resource development; balance between conventional wage employment activities and those that support the traditional native economy; balance between externally generated development and that from within; balance between using the land and resources, and conserving them and, balance between protecting the environment and developing the natural resources available to us.

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A RECENT AND DRAMATIC EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF BALANCE WE HAVE STRIVED FOR AND ACHIEVED IS REFLECTED IN THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO APPROVE THE NORMAN WELLS OIL FIELD EXPANSION AND PIPELINE PROJECT THIS PAST SUMMER, SUBJECT RTO A TWO-YEAR DELAY IN MAJOR CONSTRUCTION. THIS DECISION WAS NOT ARRIVED AT LIGHTLY: IN WEIGHING THE ELEMENTS OF THE NORMAN WELLS PROJECT, THE GOVERNMENT ASKED THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OFFICE (FEARO) TO CONSIDER NOT JUST THE ENVIRONMENTAL BUT ALSO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT.

THE NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD ALSO STUDIED THE PROJECT AND BOTH AGENCIES HELD PUBLIC HEARINGS BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF SXITY AND REPORTED POSITIVELY, SUBJECT TO SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

I PERSONALLY SOUGHT THE VIEWS OF THE NORTHERNERS ON THIS PROJECT THROUGH A SERIES OF PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD IN YELLOWKNIFE AND IN COMMUNITIES IN THE MACKENZIE VALLEY LAST SPRING, SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION COULD BALANCE LOCAL CONCERNS WITH THE INDUSTRY'S PROPOSALS AND THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

THE DECISION ON NORMAN WELLS MEETS THE CRITERIA THAT I BELIEVE A NORTHERN RESOURCE PROJECT SHOULD. ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE TWO-YEAR DELAY, THE PIPELINE PROJECT WILL BE MANAGED IN A SOCIALLY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACCEPTABLE MANNER AND AT THE SAME TIME IT WILL PROVIDE ENHANCED JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR NORTHERNERS. I WOULD REMIND MEMBERS AS WELL THAT THE DECISION TO PROCEED WITH THIS PROJECT SUBJECT TO A DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION WORKS TOWARD MEETING THE CONCERNS OF THE DENE AND MËTIS REGARDING ADEQUATE TIME FOR NEGOTIATION OF THEIR LAND CLAIM.

In this project and others, my department and I continue to meet our particular responsibility to ensure that Northerners benefit economically and socially from resource development in the North. With the cooperation of the Territorial governments and the private sector, certain requirements have been laid down as a pre-condition for industry to undertake before commencing oil and gas activities. These conditions cover such areas as employment of Northerners and protection of the environment. To cite one notable example where this policy has produced excellent results, I might mention that in the Beaufort Sea area one company has provided employment for 300 Northerners and local economic benefits in the order of 30-million dollars annually. This has been accomplished by suasion and cooperation of the Industry, but with the enactment of this Bill it will enable a melding of resource management objectives with the other vital northern policy objectives such as employment and local business development.

Considerable progress has also been recorded through measures aimed at protecting the environment in areas of oil and gas operations. Exploratory drilling, whether on land or offshore, for instance, must conform with specific conditions pre-set by my department. Environmental impact studies have been required before many such activities are approved.

Under legislation currently before the House, a revolving fund of 15-million dollars will be set up by assessments on industry to cover the cost of such studies to be conducted under the direction of my Department.

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Complementary to the requirements of the Arctic Water Pollution Prevention Act, evidence of financial responsibility as well as the assumption of unlimited liability for damanges will be required from industry for its offshore operations.

I cannot list here, Madame Speaker, <u>all</u> the programs and initiatives related to oil and gas activity which have been undertaken in recent years. They deal with other considerations such as supplies to Northerners of locally produced petroleum products; licensing policies, exploration agreements, technical developments and so forth.

But I think it should be clear to all members that, even without Bill C-48, the Government has had the interest and welfare of Northerners clearly in mind in developing resource policies over the past two decades. That is a priority which will definitely be strengthened by the proposed legislation.

In determining our strategies and directions, Mme. Speaker, we have counted heavily on the input of Northerners themselves. The extent of their participation is sometimes overlooked. It has ranged from frequent consultation on land use permits and socio-economic action plans to major discussions involved in the environmental impact assessment processes, and regional planning projects such as the Lancaster Sound Study.

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Nowhere is the contribution of Northerners more evident -- nor, indeed, more appreciated -- than the eight amendments to the Bill accepted by the Government in response to proposals Introduced by the Inuit Committee on National Issues.

Briefly, I would like to touch on at least some of these amendments which have so notably improved the Bill itself.

It was through the efforts of the Inuit Committee that a key passage on aboriginal rights (Sec. 5 - 7) was amended to read, and I quote, "Nothing in this Act abrogates or derogates from any aboriginal title, right or claim that pertained to the aboriginal peoples of Canada prior to the coming into force of this Act." This was the clause that satisfied so many of the Inuit who had previously expressed concern about the implications of the Bill.

Another Inuit amendment provided that an exploration agreement "may require equity participation by Government and Canadians," including any aboriginal peoples who may be affected. That also was a significant improvement, in terms of opening up the potential for joint ventures in the resource field.

Again, the Inuit Committee suggested that an exploration agreement "may require training and employment opportunities" for disadvantaged individuals or groups. I hardly think there would be any opposition to that amendment. I regard the development of the human resources of the North as fundamental to the future of the North.

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A GREAT MANY NORTHERNERS HAVE VOICED THEIR CONCERNS IN MEETINGS WITH ME PERSONALLY AND IN COUNTLESS LETTERS. MR. SPEAKER, I WOULD SUBMIT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS MOVED AHEAD WITH THIS LEGISLATION, MINDFUL OR AWARE OF NORTHERN INTERESTS. PERSONALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO THE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE DEVOTED SO MUCH TIME AND EFFORT IN HELPING US TO PRODUCE WHAT I'M CONVINCED WILL BE AN EFFECTIVE PIECE OF LEGISLATION.

BUT FOR THE SCEPTICS WHO STILL SEE SOMETHING SINISTER IN THIS LEGISLATION, I WOULD LIKE TO DEAL BRIEFLY WITH A FEW OF THE MORE PERSISTENT ALLEGATIONS.

BILL C-48 DOES NOT PREJUDICE DECISIONS RESPECTING NATIVE LAND CLAIMS. THE NOTION THAT IT SEEKS TO REMOVE OIL AND GAS RIGHTS FROM THE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT PROCESS IS INCORRECT. I REITERATE, SECTION 5-(7) AFFIRMS THAT NOTHING IN THIS BILL INTERFERES WITH EXISTING ABORIGINAL RIGHTS. IN PARTICULAR, I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT CLAUSE 61 INVOLVING THE REPLACEMENT OF OIL AND GAS LICENSES AND RIGHTS REFERS ONLY TO MINERAL RIGHTS HELD UNDER FORMER LEGISLATION AND WILL NOT PREJUDICE NATIVE CLAIMS.

IF THERE ARE THOSE WHO STILL DOUBT THE GOVERNMENT'S GOOD FAITH WITH RESPECT TO LAND CLAIM NEGOTIATIONS, LET THEM CAST AN EYE ON THE RECENT DECISIONS ON NORMAN WELLS PIPELINE AND PETRO CANADA EXPLORATION AGREEMENT. CONSTRUCTION OF THE PIPELINE EXTENSION AND EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES WERE DELAYED TWO YEARS TO ALLOW FOR ISSUES RELATED TO LAND CLAIMS TO BE RESOLVED THROUGH NEGOTIATION.

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The issues of resource revenue sharing and ownership of resources in the continental offshore and in the Northern Territories are not addressed in the Bill. Those questions are more properly dealt with in other forums.

As I've indicated, Mme. Speaker, the Bill does not change my responsibility for the protection of the Northern environment. Indeed, it specifically assigns to me the duty to balance the need for resource development with the need to protect the Northern environment, while facilitating a broadly based economic development in the North.

I think it can be said, Mme. Speaker, that Bill C-48 will provide further means to achieve the objectives of the National Energy Program in the North. It was almost exactly a year ago that program was introduced and, at that time, one of its goals was described as follows:

The People of the North should have more say in the decisions affecting resource development. They should enjoy more of the benefits, and bear fewer of the costs of Northern resource activity. They must be assured that their interests will be protected, and that they have the opportunity to play a meaningful role in these activities.

That was how the Government saw the situation a year ago. That is how we continue to see it today. As I indicated earlier, we have a commitment to serve Canada's national interests and, in so doing, to make it possible for Northern Canadians to contribute more meaningfully to that end.

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In conclusion, Mme. Speaker, I think all of us in this House have regarded the North as important to Canada's future. We see it in resource development, we see it in emerging technology; we see it in the growing self-confidence of the resource developers and Northern people. And we see it in a new awareness of what the North means to Canada.

Now is the time for decision and action. To realize these opportunities we must act prudently but promptly. Bill C-48 is an important step in the right direction and I urge the support of all House Members.

Thank you.

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NOTES FOR REMARKS

BY THE

HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

TO THE

STANDING COMMITTEE

ON

INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

DECEMBER 1, 1981

OTTAWA, ONTARIO

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. Chairman, I welcome this opportunity to report to the Committee on some of the more significant developments that have occurred since we last met, particularly as they relate to Canada's original peoples. Generally speaking, I believe that important progress is being made and will continue to be made toward the ultimate objective of greater self-reliance for Indian and Inuit communities in all parts of the country.

To begin with, I would like to review some of the major events in recent months.

As Committee members know, following the unofficial report of the committee on the implementation of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, the Minister of Justice and I asked that a review be undertaken by our officials. After extensive consultations with the Cree and Inuit, and other persons involved in the negotiation and implementation of the Agreement, a draft report was prepared in mid-summer.

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MR. CHRÉTIEN AND I ASKED THAT THIS REPORT BE DISCUSSED WITH THE CREE AND INUIT BEFORE BEING FINALIZED AND THAT DISCUSSIONS ALSO BE HELD ON POSSIBLE ACTION TO BE TAKEN TO REMEDY ANY DEFICIENCIES. THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD CONTINUOUSLY SINCE AUGUST AND ARE ONGOING. I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO FINALIZE THE REPORT AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO MY CABINET COLLEAGUES VERY SOON. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RESULTS OF THE REVIEW, HOWEVER, THE CREE AND INUIT LEADERS AND THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVE THAT IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT IT BE DONE RIGHT, RATHER THAN MERELY QUICKLY.

I DO NOT WISH TO COMMENT ON THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE REPORT UNTIL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CREE AND INUIT HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. I CAN, HOWEVER, TELL THE COMMITTEE THAT THE RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NATIVE LEADERS HAVE FOCUSSED ON THE ACTION THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO MEET ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE AGREEMENT.

IT WAS ALSO SINCE OUR LAST MEETING, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON THE NORMAN WELLS PIPELINE EXTENSION. AGAIN, IT TOOK TIME AND WE SOUGHT THE VIEWS OF THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, NATIVE LEADERS AND OTHER NORTHERNERS. THE RESULT WAS AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL HAVE VERY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON NORTHERN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ENSURING THAT PROGRESS WILL NOT COME AT THE EXPENSE OF THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT OR THOSE WHO LIVE THERE. CONSTRUCTION ON THE PIPELINE ITSELF WILL BE DELAYED FOR TWO YEARS TO ALLOW FOR NEGOTIATION OF LAND CLAIMS IN THE AREA CONCERNED, AND TO ASSURE THAT EVERYTHING

IS DONE THAT CAN BE DONE TO PROVIDE FOR THE FULLEST POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION OF NORTHERNERS IN THE PROJECT. IT IS MY PERSONAL BELIEF THAT THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE NORMAN WELLS NEGOTIATIONS AUGURS WELL FOR FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, THE NATIVE POPULATION AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE NORTH.

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING INDIANS AND NORTHERNERS WERE ALSO REFLECTED IN THE RECENT BUDGET, MR. CHAIRMAN.

IT WAS ESPECIALLY GRATIFYING TO NOTE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S FISCAL PLAN TO 1985-86 CALLS FOR A REALLOCATION OF SOME $345-MILLION TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NATIVE PEOPLE. CERTAINLY, ONE OF THE SUREST WAYS OF ALLEVIATING THE CONDITIONS OF DISADVANTAGE WHICH HAVE FRUSTRATED THE NATIVE PEOPLES OF THIS COUNTRY FOR SO LONG LIES IN PROVIDING THEM WITH THE NECESSARY SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO BUILD UP THEIR OWN ECONOMIES, ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES.

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INTOLERABLE LIVING CONDITIONS CANNOT BE REDRESSED WITHOUT A MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN PROSPECTS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT. FAILURE TO PROVIDE NATIVE PEOPLE WITH THE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE CAN ONLY PERPETUATE AND EXACERBAT THE SITUATION.

PAST LEVELS OF SUPPORT FOR SUCH DEVELOPMENT FELL SHORT OF WHAT WAS REQUIRED. THAT WAS WHY, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WAS SO PLEASED TO SEE THE MAJOR ALLOCATIONS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW BUDGET.

I AM ALSO ENCOURAGED, INCIDENTALLY, BY RECENT CHANGES IN CORPORATE ATTITUDE AND IN THE ATTITUDE OF NATIVES WHICH HAVE CLEARED THE WAY FOR EQUITY INVESTMENT IN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE AWARDING OF CONTRACTS TO NATIVES FOR THE SUPPLY OF LABOUR TO DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

TWO SPECIFIC EXAMPLES ARE CULLATON LAKE GOLD MINES LIMITED AN COMINCO POLARIS MINES. IN THE CASE OF CULLATON LAKE, NATIVES WERE ENCOURAGED AND ACQUIRED EQUITY INVESTMENT IN THE PROJECT THROUGH THEIR CORPORATE BODY, THE INUIT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (IDC), TO THE TUNE OF ABOUT $27 MILLION. IN ADDITION, THEY ARE TO PROVIDE THE 100 PERSONS IT WILL TAKE TO MAN THE OPERATION YEAR-ROUND.

COMINCO'S POLARIS PROJECT, HAS ALSO ENTERED INTO CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH IDC FOR THE SUPPLY OF LABOUR IN THE DEVELOPMENT PHASE OF THE MINE AND IS EXPECTED TO EXTEND THESE ARRANGEMENTS TO THE OPERATIONAL PHASE.

It was unfortunate that due to the pressure of recent events I was unable to be in Saskatoon a few days ago to present Amok Cluff Mining with an award recognizing their example to others in this important area of native participation. Despite my forced absence I do appreciate the spirit of cooperation demonstrated by both native and non-native participants in projects like the one at Cluff Lake.

Mr. Chairman, returning to the budget, I feel it is vital for northerners to understand the principle that is at stake in taxation of northern benefits. I want to do what I can here to clarify this issue and to help people make sense of what some may fear is just a withdrawal of federal support to people living and working in the NWT and Yukon.

I recall with some vividness my first tour of the north as Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in early 1980. I remember clearly the anxiety and sincerity with which I was greeted in numerous communities during that tour which, coincidentally, followed closely an administrative decision to eliminate the customary exemption of northern benefits which had been permitted until then.

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Honourable members, as you know by now a decision has been taken to discontinue the temporary remission from taxation of certain employee benefits accorded to people working in the North and in isolated posts. That remission order or "moratorium" was due to expire on December 31, 1981. After that date, low-cost housing benefits, subsidized housing allowances and travel assistance in respect of transportation for vacation or medical purposes would have become taxable like any other income.

The effect of the budget is first, to extend the Moratorium for another year until December 31, 1982. The tax relief is limited to those benefits that are granted under employer-employee agreements reached before this budget was announced. All such benefits will become taxable as income from employment effective January 1, 1983. The extension will allow sufficient time to employers-employees directly affected by this decision to negotiate the adjustment required.

Second, beginning with the 1982 taxation year, and for the following years the list of qualifying deductible medical expenses will be extended to include travel costs incurred by residents in isolated areas to get medical services not available in their region. I welcome this measure which contributes to improve the fairness in the accessibility to medical services by all Canadians wherever they live.

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Honourable members, I believe it is important for people to understand what the Government is doing in this instance. The principles of fairness and equity form the foundation of Canada's income tax system. The Minister of Finance dealt with this concept at length during his budget speech. Essentially, he said the Government was restoring equity to Canada's tax collection system to reflect the principle that taxpayers with equal incomes should pay the same amount of tax, while higher-income individuals should pay a greater proportion of their income in tax than lower-income individuals.

Unfortunately this commendable initiative brings an end to the exemption that some northerners have become accustomed to receiving. This, by the way, is where I fear there may be room for misunderstanding or misinterpretation of the purpose of this measure. For the record, nobody is suggesting that northerners are exploiting the tax system unfairly, at the deliberate expense of other taxpayers.

The non-taxation of these benefits, which was contrary to the provision of the Income Tax Act, created some basic inequity among employees receiving different amounts of non-taxable benefits and between those receiving and not receiving such benefits. The system was unfair.

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EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT IN ORDER TO ATTRACT EXPERIENCED WORKERS IN THE NORTH AND REMOTE AREAS, INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENTS HAVE TO OFFER HIGHER FINANCIAL INCENTIVES. THE PRESENT SYSTEM FAVOURS EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY STRONG UNIONS WHICH NEGOTIATE GENEROUS NON-TAXABLE BENEFITS WHICH ARE ADDED TO THEIR BASIC WAGES. FOR THE MAJORITY OF EMPLOYEES NOT REPRESENTED BY STRONG UNIONS, THE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INCENTIVE OFFERED TO THEM BY SMALL EMPLOYERS TO WORK IN THE NORTH HAS BEEN BUILT INTO THEIR BASIC WAGES AND CONSEQUENTLY HAS BEEN FULLY TAXED. CLEARLY, THIS IS UNFAIR AND UNACCEPTABLE.

THE COST OF LIVING IN THE NWT AND YUKON AFFECTS ALL NORTHERNERS TO SOME DEGREE. THEREFORE, ANY MEASURE TO ASSIST THEM SHOULD BENEFIT EVERYONE AND PREFERABLY IT SHOULD BE ACCORDING TO THEIR ECONOMIC STATUS.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS, AS INDICATED IN THE BUDGET, THE DELAY OF ONE YEAR WILL ALLOW GOVERNMENT ADEQUATE TIME TO REVIEW THE NEED FOR, AND MEANS OF, PROVIDING SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO EMPLOYEES WORKING IN THE NORTH AND IN ISOLATED POSTS. I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE TO THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE THAT I HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED THIS RESPONSIBILITY AND THAT I HAVE ALREADY INSTRUCTED MY OFFICIALS TO LOOK, IN COOPERATION WITH OFFICIALS OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS, AT POSSIBLE MEANS OF ANSWERING THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF NORTHERNERS IN A WAY THAT IS COMPATIBLE WITH CANADA'S TAX SYSTEM.

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THE DIFFICULTY THAT WE ARE FACED WITH IS HOW TO OFFSET ELIMINATION OF THE MORATORIUM WITHOUT CREATING A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT IN THE NATIONAL PERSONAL INCOME TAX POLICY. I FOR ONE AM CONVINCED OF THE NECESSITY TO FIND SUCH A SOLUTION.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I COME NOW TO THE POINT IN MY REMARKS WHICH DEALS WITH EVENTS OF THE UTMOST SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY. WHAT THE HOUSE DID LAST WEEK BY UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING EXISTING ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS WILL HAVE A PROLONGED AND FUNDAMENTAL INFLUENCE. WHAT MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS HAVE DONE IS TO ENSURE THAT NATIVE PEOPLE WILL BE ACCORDED UNIQUE STATUS IN THE HIGHEST LAW OF THE LAND.

WHAT ENCOURAGES ME MOST, MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, IS THE AWARENESS THAT THIS HISTORIC RECOGNITION OF ABORIGINAL RIGHTS WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE EXPLICIT ENDORSEMENT NOT ONLY OF ALL PARTIES IN THE HOUSE, BUT ALSO OF NINE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

IT IS THE INVOLVEMENT OF THOSE PROVINCES THAT IS MOST HEARTENING TO ME. IT IS THE FACT THAT THEY BACKED THE AMENDMENT THAT MAKES ME SO ENCOURAGED TODAY. THE PEOPLE OF CANADA AND THEIR LEADERS HAVE CONCENTRATED ON THIS QUESTION WITH UNPRECEDENTED INTENSITY. WHAT THEY HAVE DECIDED IS THAT AN EXPRESSION OF THIS COUNTRY'S HIGHEST PRINCIPLES IS UNACCEPTABLE WITHOUT DUE RECOGNITION FOR NATIVE PEOPLE.

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I KNOW THE CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTION WITH THIS AMENDMENT WILL NOT RESOLVE ALL THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES. IT WILL NOT PUT TO REST ALL THE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP OF NATIVE PEOPLE TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. IT WILL SET THE STAGE FOR A WHOLE NEW SERIES OF ISSUES YET TO BE RAISED. IT REPRESENTS, HOWEVER, AN ENORMOUS GAIN OVER WHERE WE WERE AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE NOVEMBER 5 ACCORD.

I WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW THE CRITICAL PROVISIONS IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL PACKAGE THAT REFER TO NATIVES. FIRST, UNDER THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT THE MOST CRITICAL SECTION IN THE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZES AND AFFIRMS ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS OF ALL ABORIGINAL PEOPLES IN THE HIGHEST LAW OF THE LAND. WHILE THERE IS CONCERN BECAUSE THE CLAUSE DIFFERS IN ONE MINOR RESPECT FROM THE PREVIOUS SECTION 34, ITS EFFECT IS IDENTICAL. THIS IS BORNE OUT BY THE LEGAL ADVICE AFFORDED THE GOVERNMENT.

SECOND, I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE RESOLUTION ALSO CONTAINS OTHER IMPORTANT PROVISIONS RESPECTING NATIVE PEOPLE. SPECIFICALLY SECTION 25 OF THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS STATES:

> THE GUARANTEE IN THIS CHARTER OF CERTAIN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED SO AS TO ABROGATE OR DEROGATE FROM ANY ABORIGINAL, TREATY OR OTHER RIGHTS OR FREEDOMS THAT PERTAIN TO THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLES OF CANADA, INCLUDING
>
> (A) ANY RIGHTS OR FREEDOMS THAT HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE ROYAL PROCLAMATION OF OCTOBER 7, 1763; AND

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(B) ANY RIGHTS OR FREEDOMS THAT MAY BE ACQUIRED BY THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLES OF CANADA BY WAY OF LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENT.

THIRD, THE RESOLUTION ALSO PROVIDES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AT WHICH THERE WILL BE AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA RESPECTING MATTERS THAT DIRECTLY AFFECT THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLES OF CANADA. REPRESENTATIVES OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CONFERENCE. THIS AGENDA ITEM WILL INCLUDE THE IDENTIFICATION AND DEFINITION OF THE SPECIFIC RIGHTS OF NATIVE PEOPLES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CONSTITUTION OF CANADA.

I HOPE THAT ALL PARTIES, INCLUDING THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE NATIVE PEOPLE, WILL DO ALL THEY CAN TO ENSURE THAT THAT CONFERENCE IS A SUCCESS. CONSIDERABLE EFFORT WILL BE NEEDED TO FIND COMMON GROUND AMONG INDIAN PEOPLES, OTHER NATIVE PEOPLES AND CANADIANS IN GENERAL BEFORE UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE IS REACHED ON ALL ISSUES. BUT I AM SURE THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED.

FINALLY, I WANT TO MENTION MY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR NORTHERN AFFAIRS, AND WHAT IMPACT THE RESOLUTION HAS IN THAT REGARD. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WILL RECALL THAT THE RESOLUTION HAS GENERATED SOME DISCUSSION IN CONNECTION WITH THE APPLICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION ACT TO THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF NEW PROVINCES IN THE YUKON AND THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, OR THE EXTENSION OF EXISTING PROVINCES INTO THE TWO TERRITORIES.

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The principal question being asked about the Constitution Act by many of the people north of 60 is how it applies to Canada's territories. The question they are asking is why it should be necessary to make the federal power to create new provinces subject to the amending formula. There is also a concern about the mention in the amending formula of the power to extend provincial boundaries northward.

The entire assembly of the Northwest Territories came to Ottawa to express to the Prime Minister, to the Minister of Justice and to myself their serious concern about this matter and other matters. We have had extensive meetings to discuss this matter. The depth of their concern at having provinces involved in the creation of a province to the north, formerly a purely federal responsibility, is well understood. It has simply not been possible to change the Accord with the provinces to meet this concern.

In closing, I want to stress that both the earlier and the present version of the resolution had the same thing to say about participation by the territorial governments in future constitutional discussion. Territorial representatives will be invited to participate in discussions on any item of the agenda of the conference that, in the opinion of the Prime Minister, directly affects the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

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SPEECH NOTES

FOR THE

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HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

TO THE

STANDING COMMITTEE

MARCH 30, 1982

OTTAWA, ONTARIO

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, HONOURABLE COLLEAGUES:

LAST MARCH, I DESCRIBED TO YOU THE BROAD OUTLOOK WITH WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS APPROACHING ITS FUTURE RELATIONS WITH CANADA'S ORIGINAL PEOPLES, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH. I SAID THAT OUR COMMITMENT IS TO A MAJOR AND FUNDAMENTAL IMPROVEMENT OF CONDITIONS AMONG INDIANS AND INUIT, AND TO THE CO-ORDINATED AND CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH.

TODAY, I REAFFIRM NOT ONLY THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THESE GOALS, BUT ALSO MY OWN PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO THEIR ADVANCEMENT AND FRUITION.

CONSEQUENTLY, I FEEL IT IS APPROPRIATE AND IMPORTANT FOR ME TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS MY DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAKE TOWARD THESE COMMITMENTS AND GOALS DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS WHILE I HAVE HELD THIS PORTFOLIO.

I THINK YOU WILL AGREE THAT THERE IS SOME CAUSE FOR SATISFACTION - BUT NOT COMPLACENCY - WITH WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED DURING THIS PERIOD.

BUT BEFORE BEGINNING, I SHOULD MENTION THE SECOND PHASE OF CONSTITUTIONAL EVOLUTION WHICH WILL AFFECT NATIVE PEOPLES. AT MY APPEARANCE BEFORE YOU EARLY LAST DECEMBER, I MENTIONED THAT THE CONSTITUTION ACT PROVIDED FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, AND THAT THE AGENDA FOR THIS CONFERENCE WILL INCLUDE ITEMS DIRECTLY AFFECTING THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLES OF CANADA. THESE WILL INCLUDE THE IDENTIFICATION AND DEFINITION OF THE RIGHTS OF NATIVE PEOPLES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CONSTITUTION. WHILE IT IS PREMATURE TO SPEAK IN ANY DETAIL OF THE PROCESS AND CONTENT OF PHASE II, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WILL BE OF GREAT IMPORT FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND FOR CANADIANS GENERALLY.

WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT SECTION 35 REPRESENTS A VERY ENCOURAGING CONSOLIDATION, ON OUR PART, AND CONFIRMATION ON THE PART OF THE PROVINCES, OF THE CONCEPT OF ABORIGINAL RIGHT AND TITLE, AS WELL AS THE RIGHTS CONTAINED IN TREATIES.

THIS COMMITMENT IS A MAJOR ACT OF PUBLIC FAITH IN OUR NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE CITIZENS' DETERMINATION AND CAPACITY TO DEAL WITH EACH OTHER IN FAIRNESS.

NOW LET ME REVIEW OUR OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

FIRST, IN THE AREA OF DEVOLVING RESPONSIBILITY FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO THE INDIAN AND INUIT PEOPLE THEMSELVES; I AM VERY GLAD TO REPORT THAT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THIS PRIORITY AREA IN VIRTUALLY EVERY PART OF THE COUNTRY.

1) FOR EXAMPLE, BY THE END OF FISCAL YEAR 80-81, 385 BANDS ACROSS CANADA WERE ADMINISTERING PROGRAMS ON-RESERVE. ALMOST ALL BANDS ARE NOW DELIVERING SOME PROGRAMS THEMSELVES.

2) ON FEBRUARY 22ND OF THIS YEAR MY PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, MR. RAY CHENIER, M.P., ON MY BEHALF, AND MY CABINET COLLEAGUE THE HONOURABLE LLOYD AXWORTHY ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SIGNED THE CANADA-MANITOBA-INDIAN CHILD WELFARE AGREEMENT. THIS IS A KEY AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND MANITOBA AND THE FOUR NATIONS CONFEDERACY.

THIS PACT, I THINK JUSTIFIABLY, CAN BE DESCRIBED AS A "MILESTONE" IN THE FIELD OF CHILD WELFARE, NOT ONLY IN MANITOBA BUT THROUGHOUT CANADA. INDIAN PEOPLE MUST BE INVOLVED IN ALL ASPECTS OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICE, AND THIS IS PRECISELY THE SORT OF DEVOLVED RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY THAT WE BELIEVE IS CRUCIAL FOR THE LONG-TERM SUCCESS OF LOCAL INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

3) IN THE CRITICAL AREA OF INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WE HAVE SHIFTED THE EMPHASIS FROM HIGH-PROFILE, LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS TO A RESERVE AND LOCAL COMMUNITY - ORIENTED LEVEL, BETTER SUITED TO COMMUNITY NEEDS, CAPABILITIES, AND RESOURCES. I'LL HAVE MORE TO SAY ABOUT THIS ASPECT IN A FEW MOMENTS.

FOR THE TIME BEING LET ME JUST SAY THIS IS IN KEEPING WITH OUR GOAL OF CREATING SELF-SUSTAINING ECONOMIC BASES FOR LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT. TWO OF THESE PROJECTS ARE ALREADY IN OPERATION - THE WILD RICE HARVESTING IN ONTARIO, AND A CARIBOU MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IN NORTHERN SASKATCHEWAN, MANITOBA, AND THE N.W.T. IT IS OUR CONVICTION THAT INTEGRATED SMALL-SCALE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - DEVELOPMENT WHICH FOCUSES ON EXISTING OR CLEARLY VIABLE FUTURE PROJECTS - IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL IF WE WISH TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH AT THE COMMUNITY AND BAND LEVEL.

AN ADDED ADVANTAGE TO THIS APPROACH IS THAT FURTHER SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DISINTEGRATION IS AVOIDED AND INDIAN SELF-RELIANCE IS CONSEQUENTLY ENHANCED.

4) SINCE 1980, INDIAN CONTROL OF EDUCATION HAS DEVELOPED WITH NOTABLE AND ENCOURAGING SUCCESS.

THERE ARE NOW THREE OFFICIAL INDIAN AND INUIT SCHOOL BOARDS AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL - TWO OF WHICH WERE CREATED AS A RESULT OF THE HISTORIC JAMES BAY AGREEMENT - AND 58 CULTURAL

OR EDUCATIONAL CENTRES MANAGED BY INDIANS AND INUIT IN 9 PROVINCES AND BOTH TERRITORIES. AS WELL, INDIAN COMMUNITIES OPERATED 157 SCHOOLS WHICH SERVE 10,000 NATIVE STUDENTS AND THIS IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO 20,000 STUDENTS BY 1986.

IN POST-SECONDARY INDIAN AND INUIT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, THERE HAVE BEEN DRAMATIC SUCCESSES. IN 1969, THERE WERE 808 INDIANS ENROLLED IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS. BY THE END OF 1981, THIS HAD RISEN TO 5,792 STUDENTS ACCOUNTING FOR A BUDGET ALLOCATION OF $18 MILLION.

DURING THE PAST YEAR I MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR BANDS TO EXEMPT THEMSELVES FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE INDIAN ACT - NAMELY, THOSE THAT CAUSE WOMEN TO LOSE THEIR STATUS ON MARRIAGE TO NON-INDIANS, AND FURTHER PROVISIONS THAT CAUSE CHILDREN OF INDIAN PARENTS BORN AFTER 1951 TO LOSE THEIR STATUS AT AGE 21 IF THEIR MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER WERE NON-INDIAN.

OUR FIGURES INDICATE THAT 48 BANDS HAVE REQUESTED EXEMPTION FROM DISCRIMINATORY PROVISIONS OF THE EXISTING INDIAN ACT. APPROXIMATELY 270 BANDS HAVE ASKED TO BE EXEMPTED FROM THE "DOUBLE MOTHER" CLAUSE. MOREOVER THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO CHANGING THE PROVISIONS OF THE INDIAN ACT THAT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF SEX AND WILL ENSURE THAT CONSULTATIONS ARE UNDERTAKEN SOON WITH INDIAN PEOPLE AND OTHERS ON WAYS TO DO THIS.

NO ONE WOULD DISPUTE THAT ENTRENCHED ATTITUDES AND STEREOTYPES HAVE HAMPERED FEDERAL/INDIAN RELATIONS IN THE PAST, AND HAVE OFTEN PREVENTED OUR ACHIEVING MUTUALLY DESIRABLE GOALS OF INDIAN AND INUIT SELF-SUFFICIENCY, SELF-GOVERNMENT, AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INTEGRITY.

CERTAINLY, IN PAST YEARS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS HELD SOME ATTITUDES OF PROTECTIVE WARDSHIP. ON THE WHOLE, THOUGH, I BELIEVE I CAN SAY WITHOUT FEAR OF RECRIMINATION THAT CANADA HAS NO PEER IN HER ATTITUDES TOWARDS HER FIRST CITIZENS.

THIS IS NO HOLLOW CLAIM.

YOU WILL NOTE FROM OUR 1980 REPORT, <u>INDIAN CONDITIONS: A SURVEY,</u> THAT WE ARE NOT AT ALL COMPLACENT ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND WELFARE DEPENDENCE AMONG RESERVE AND OFF-RESERVE INDIANS ALIKE. YET, ON BALANCE, IT IS EQUALLY TRUE THAT INDIAN LIVING CONDITIONS IN GENERAL ARE MUCH IMPROVED OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS.

WHILE THE CONTINUATION OF GOVERNMENT - CONTROLLED PROGRAMS MAY FOSTER A SENSE OF DEPENDENCY, BANDS <u>HAVE</u> RESPONDED WELL TO INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DELIVERY AND CONTROL OF SOCIAL ASSISTANCE. BY 1981, 66% OF CANADA'S 575 BANDS WERE

ADMINISTERING THIS PART OF MY DEPARTMENT'S SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

WE REALIZE, OF COURSE, THAT MANY OF OUR ACTIVITIES IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ARE AIMED AT MAINTENANCE. IN THE LONG RUN, WE ARE DETERMINED TO REDUCE THIS FOCUS ON THESE KINDS OF ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOP A STRONG BASE OF ECONOMIC SELF-RELIANCE. IN SOME CASES THIS CAN MEAN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. BUT IN THE CURRENT ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT THERE IS A LOT OF DEMAND FOR NEW JOBS. THERE IS STILL CAUSE, HOWEVER, FOR OPTIMISM. FOR EXAMPLE, IN KEEPING WITH THE LOCALLY - ORIENTED ECONOMIC INITIATIVES BEING INTRODUCED BY MY DEPARTMENT, THE ONTARIO REGION ALONE PROVIDED BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES TO 500 EXISTING INDIAN BUSINESSES AND 100 NEW PROJECTS. THESE CREATED 400 NEW JOBS AND HELPED CONTINUE 3,400 EXISTING JOBS. IN ONTARIO AGAIN, 190 INDIAN PEOPLE OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT THROUGH ONE OF OUR TRAINING PROGRAMS.

IN ATLANTIC CANADA, 77.5 PERSON YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT AMONG INDIAN BANDS WERE CREATED, AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THESE SORTS OF PROGRAMS WILL BE COMPLEMENTED BY THE COMMUNITY - BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS WHICH WE SEEK TO ENCOURAGE.

IN THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET ASIDE $358 MILLION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STIMULUS FOR NATIVE PEOPLE. THE NOVEMBER BUDGET ACCOUNTED FOR $345 MILLION OF THIS. AN ADDITIONAL $8 MILLION WAS EARMARKED LAST YEAR TO ENSURE THAT PARTICULARLY - DESERVING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES WERE NOT LOST FOR LACK OF FUNDS. IN ADDITION, $5 MILLION WAS ALLOCATED TO HELP INDIANS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MAJOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENTS.

I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED ABOUT PROGRESS IN HOUSING. WE HAVE NEARLY DOUBLED FUNDING IN THIS AREA IN THE LAST TWO YEARS AND HAVE MADE IMPORTANT ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PROGRAM TO ASSURE QUALITY CONSTRUCTION. I SINCERELY HOPE I'LL BE ABLE TO REPORT TO YOU THAT WE'VE TRIPLED THESE FUNDS BY YEAR'S END.

IN TERMS OF THE NORTH, WE ARE ALL AWARE OF THE IMMENSE POTENTIAL OF THAT AREA, NORTH OF 60°, AS WELL AS THE PROBLEMS THAT GO ALONG WITH DEVELOPING IT. OUR PROBLEM, THE ONE THAT WE AS CANADIANS ALWAYS FACE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT, IS BALANCING MANY DIVERSE AND SOMETIMES COMPETING INTERESTS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS A ROLE IN HELPING TO STRIKE THIS BALANCE. BY ENCOURAGING, PLANNING, CO-ORDINATING, EVALUATING AND MONITORING, IT CAN ASSIST THOSE MOST

AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENT TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED AND TO RECEIVE AN EQUITABLE SHARE OF THE BENEFITS.

EMPHASIS HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE ON ORDERLY RESOURCE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT REGARDING ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT AND TO BENEFIT THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH.

THOROUGH PLANNING AND EVALUATION OF PROPOSED PROJECTS MUST ENSURE THAT POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACTS ARE MINIMIZED WHILE BENEFITS ACCRUING TO THE NORTH ARE REALIZED.

IN THIS REGARD I NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THE SUCCESS WE AND THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE HAD, THROUGH WORKING WITH RESOURCE DEVELOPERS, IN INCREASING LOCAL EMPLOYMENT, PARTICULARLY OF NATIVE NORTHERNERS, AND OF ENSURING NORTHERN BUSINESS ACCESS TO DEVELOPMENT WORK.

HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT REALIZES THAT THE MAJOR IMPETUS FOR THE SUCCESSFUL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NORTHERN NATIVE GROUPS WILL COME FROM THE ULTIMATE SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING LAND CLAIMS. THE DEPARTMENT ADVANCED $5 MILLION TO NORTHERN NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT CLAIMS RESEARCH, PREPARATION, AND NEGOTIATION. I AM PLEASED ALSO TO NOTE THIS EVENING THAT OUR BASE FOR LOANS TO NATIVE CLAIMANTS IN FISCAL YEAR 1982-83 HAS BEEN INCREASED FROM $8.4 MILLION TO $14.3 MILLION. OUR FAITH IN THE PROCESS OF FINAL SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS IN THE NORTH IS ALSO REFLECTED IN THE ASSISTANCE

WE PROVIDED TO NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING PLANS FOR NATIVE PEOPLE IN PREPARATION FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF CLAIMS SETTLEMENTS.

I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THE NORTHERN CO-OPERATIVES PROGRAM HAD ITS MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR TO DATE IN 1980-81 WITH $29 MILLION IN BUSINESS. A SUM OF $9.1 MILLION OF THIS WAS PAID IN WAGES TO NORTHERNERS. AS WELL, MY DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN A WIDE RANGE OF OTHER TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS INCLUDING PLACEMENT OF NATIVE PEOPLES WITH CANADIAN FORCES BASES IN THE NORTH AND WITH THE CANADIAN COAST GUARD.

THE MINING INDUSTRY IS THE LARGEST PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYER IN THE NORTH. TO LEND SUPPORT TO THE INDUSTRY AND PROVIDE DIRECTION, I AM NOW DEVELOPING A MINERAL POLICY FOR THE NORTH. THIS IS BEING DONE IN ACTIVE CO-OPERATION WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES, IN PARTICULAR THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS. THE INDUSTRY GENERALLY IS FACED WITH DIFFICULT MARKET CONDITIONS; SO I'M DETERMINED THAT THE NEW POLICY WILL SET THE STAGE FOR A MORE VIGOROUS NORTHERN MINING SECTOR.

I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLARIS MINE, ON LITTLE CORNWALLIS ISLAND WHICH HAS BECOME THE WORLD'S MOST NORTHERLY MINE IN OPERATION. CANADIAN TECHNOLOGY WAS USED TO IMPLEMENT THE NOVEL CONCEPT OF BARGEMOUNTED FACILITIES, AND CANADIAN SHIPS WILL MOVE THE BULK OF THE CONCENTRATES.

OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE WAS THE CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT REACHED BY THE INUIT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND CULLATON LAKE GOLD MINE. AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, THE INUIT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ACQUIRED SOME EQUITY AND WILL PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE MINE. THIS DEVELOPMENT BODES WELL FOR THE FUTURE, A FUTURE WHERE INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY AND THE ORIGINAL INHABITANTS ARE ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE A STRONGER NORTH FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

I AM, OF COURSE, VERY MUCH CONCERNED WITH THE PROVISION OF SECURE AND REASONABLY PRICED ENERGY TO NORTHERNERS. A LOT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, BUT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE. THAT IS WHY IN JANUARY, 1981, I DECIDED THAT A TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS NORTHERN ENERGY PROBLEMS BE FORMED. I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT I HAVE RECEIVED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE. I AM, OF COURSE, AWARE THAT A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THIS STANDING COMMITTEE WILL SOON BE ISSUING ITS FINDINGS ON THE PROBLEMS OF NORTHERN POWER. I AM VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVING A COPY OF YOUR REPORT.

AT PRESENT, I AM WORKING ACTIVELY ON DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY POLICY FOR THE NORTH. RECOGNIZING THE NORTH'S UNIQUE CLIMATE AND GEOGRAPHY, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN URGENT ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE DEALT WITH. THESE RANGE FROM THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE AS TO WHO SHOULD PAY FOR ENERGY, AND HOW TO CONSERVE TO THE PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY IN THE NORTH, AND THE ROLE OF THE

NORTHERN CANADA POWER COMMISSION IN THE GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF POWER. I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO DESCRIBE HOW THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES SHORTLY.

THE YUKON'S LONG-TERM TRANSPORTATION NEEDS WERE PARTIALLY SECURED BY THE GRANTING OF A SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST FREE LOAN TO THE WHITE PASS AND YUKON TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM. FINALLY, I LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPENING OF THE LIARD HIGHWAY IN THE SPRING OF NEXT YEAR, WHICH WILL LINK THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA. THIS HIGHWAY, WHICH WILL HAVE AN ESTIMATED COST OF $55 MILLION BY THE TIME IT IS COMPLETED, HAS BEEN FUNDED THROUGH MY DEPARTMENT'S ROADS PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM IS OPERATING AT A LEVEL OF $20 MILLION PER YEAR.

I HAVE ALSO BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA, JAY HAMMOND, CONCERNING CONTINUATION OF THE U.S. FUNDED RECONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE SHAKWAK PROJECT IN THE YUKON. WE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN INFORMED THAT NO MORE FUNDS WERE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PROJECT. HOWEVER, I HAVE RECENTLY BEEN INFORMED BY THE GOVERNOR THAT THE PROSPECTS ARE NOW MUCH BRIGHTER FOR MORE FUNDS TO BE APPROVED IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE WORK.

IN THE AREA OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, DURING THE PAST YEAR WE ALSO MADE A MAJOR STEP FORWARD WITH THE NORMAN WELLS PROJECT, ONE OF THE FIRST OF THE MEGA PROJECTS. I BELIEVE

THIS WILL BE A VALUABLE MODEL FOR NORTHERNERS AS ITS PACE OF DEVELOPMENT IS GEARED TO A RECOGNITION OF CULTURAL, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS OF THE NORTH AS WELL AS INDUSTRIAL REQUIREMENTS.

APPROVAL LATE LAST YEAR FROM BOTH THE NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD AND CABINET WILL PERMIT THIS PROJECT TO BE OPERATING BY MID-1985 THEREBY INCREASING PRODUCTION AT NORMAN WELLS FROM ABOUT 3,000 BARRELS PER DAY TO 30,000 BARRELS PER DAY IN 1988 AND INJECT ABOUT $1.2 BILLION INTO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

AS IMPORTANT AS THIS PROJECT IS IN ENERGY AND ECONOMIC TERMS TO THE NATION, CAREFUL PLANNING AND NEGOTIATING HAVE ENSURED AN EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT AND BENEFICIAL IMPACT ON THE RESIDENTS OF THE MACKENZIE VALLEY.

MORE THAN $20 MILLION HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR SPECIAL PROGRAMS, INCLUDING EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND SKILLS UPGRADING OF NORTHERNERS TO ENHANCE THEIR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FIELD EXPANSION AND PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION. ADDITIONALLY, THE PROJECT WILL SPAWN THE GROWTH, THROUGH JOINT VENTURES, AND OTHER BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS, OF VIABLE NATIVE ENTERPRISES WHICH WILL PROVIDE JOBS AND AN ECONOMIC BASE WELL INTO THE FUTURE.

STRINGENT ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN IMPOSED ON THE PROJECT TO AVOID DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND TO MINIMIZE DISRUPTION OF WILDLIFE AND ITS HABITAT.

ALONG WITH SUSTAINING EXISTING ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS, AND DEVELOPING NEW ONES SUCH AS THE NORMAN WELLS OILFIELD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, AND THE NEW MINES WHICH WILL OPEN THIS YEAR, WE HAVE A KEEN SENSE OF THE NEED TO PROTECT A SPECIAL, DELICATE, AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT.

MORE THAN $38 MILLION WAS DEVOTED TO THIS IN 1980-81. A YEAR AGO, I RELEASED THE DRAFT LANCASTER SOUND REGIONAL STUDY GREEN PAPER, AN EXAMPLE OF THE TYPE OF COMPREHENSIVE STUDY WE CAN EXPECT IN FUTURE. FOLLOWING A FURTHER ROUND OF WORKSHOPS INVOLVING NORTHERNERS, INDUSTRY, AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS, THE FINAL REPORT WILL BE RELEASED IN APRIL.

AS WELL, MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON DESIGNING A LAND USE PLANNING POLICY FOR THE NORTH WHICH WILL PERMIT NORTHERNERS TO PARTICIPATE IN COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND ENSURE THAT NORTHERN VALUES ARE GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION. TO COMPLEMENT THIS, SUCH STUDIES AS THE YUKON RIVER BASIN STUDY AGREEMENT, THE MACKENZIE RIVER BASIN STUDY, AND THE NORTHERN SHORE ZONE MANAGEMENT STUDY WERE COMPLETED OR ARE NEARING COMPLETION.

IN SUM, THEN, OUR MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, WILL BE PURSUED IN TANDEM WITH OUR CONSCIOUS UNDERTAKING TO SUPPORT THE POLITICAL EVOLUTION OF THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS.

I AM AWARE OF THE GREAT IMPORTANCE NORTHERNERS CURRENTLY ATTACH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL STRUCTURES APPROPRIATE TO THEIR NEEDS AND I HAVE NOTED THE DIALOGUE NOW UNDERWAY IN THE NORTH AIMED AT ACHIEVING CONSENSUS IN THIS REGARD. ONE EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE RECENT DISCUSSIONS BY THE NWT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WITH THE NATIVE AND MUNICIPAL LEADERS TO DEVELOP A CONSENSUS-BUILDING PROCESS ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORIES.

I ALSO NOTE WITH INTEREST THE UPCOMING PLEBISCITE IN THE NWT ON THE QUESTION OF DIVISION. AS THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY NORTHERNERS IN THE CONSENSUS-BUILDING PROCESS ATTEST, THE ISSUE OF DIVISION IS COMPLEX AND ONE WHICH THE NORTHERNERS AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO APPROACH WITH GREAT CARE. WHILE THE RESULTS OF THE PLEBISCITE WILL BE A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR DELIBERATIONS, I AM ANXIOUS THAT <u>NO FALSE EXPECTATIONS BE GENERATED</u> ABOUT EITHER THE PLEBISCITE, WHICH IS <u>PURELY ADVISORY</u> AS FAR AS BOTH THE TERRITORIAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS ARE CONCERNED, OR THE EASE WITH WHICH A MATTER OF THIS NATURE CAN BE RESOLVED.

THIS GOVERNMENT GIVES NORTHERN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AN UNMISTAKABLY HIGH PRIORITY, AS THE PRIME MINISTER INDICATED WHEN HE APPOINTED SENATOR AUSTIN TO ASSIST ME IN THIS AREA. JACK AUSTIN HAS TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY IN THE NORTH AND MET WITH A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS.

IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, I HAVE CONSULTED WITH NATIVE PEOPLE AND THEIR LEADERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND I BELIEVE THAT THEIR CONCERNS OVER THE CLAIMS PROCESS ARE BEING REFLECTED IN MY ACTIONS AND THOSE OF MY DEPARTMENT.
A POLICY BOOKLET WHICH I RELEASED IN DECEMBER 1981 GIVES A SENSE OF THE NEW IMPETUS THAT MY CONSULTATIONS WITH NATIVE LEADERS HAVE GIVEN TO THE CLAIMS PROCESS AND DESCRIBES IN SOME DETAIL THE MACHINERY WE HAVE PUT IN PLACE TO DEAL WITH THEM.

SIMILARLY, I HOPE THAT A NEW POSITION PAPER WILL BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY, DESCRIBING THE POLICY AND PROCESSES FOR DEALING WITH THOSE CLAIMS THAT RESULT FROM SPECIFIC DOCUMENTED GRIEVANCES AGAINST THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

HAPPILY, I RECENTLY HAD THE PLEASURE OF SEEING SOME OF THESE NEW INITIATIVES BEAR FRUIT IN THE FORM OF THE PENTICTON BAND AGREEMENT.

ALONG WITH THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL OF B.C., THE HON. ALLAN WILLIAMS, I SIGNED AN ACCORD WHICH WILL GIVE THE PENTICTON BAND MORE THAN $14 MILLION AND RETURN TO THEM SOME 12,000 ACRES OF LAND SEVERED FROM THEIR RESERVE IN 1916.

IT IS NO UNDERSTATEMENT TO CALL THIS A MILESTONE IN THE CLAIMS PROCESS, AND I FEEL SURE THAT IT WILL HASTEN AGREEMENT ON AT LEAST FOUR OF THE REMAINING "CUT-OFF" CLAIMS IN B.C.

JUST THIS WEEKEND I WAS IN CAPE BRETON WITH MY COLLEAGUE, THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, FOR THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT SETTLING A CLAIM OF THE WAGMATCOOK BAND FOR LOSS OF RESERVE LANDS DATING BACK TO CONFEDERATION.

FINALLY, I HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO ACCELERATE THE CLAIMS PROCESS IN FOUR MORE OF THE LARGEST OUTSTANDING CLAIMS BY APPOINTING CHIEF GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATORS TO THEM FROM OUTSIDE THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

TO UNDERLINE OUR CONFIDENCE IN SPEEDY SETTLEMENT IN THE YUKON, FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE, ALONG WITH NATIVE NEGOTIATORS, ESTABLISHED THE YUKON ELDERS PROGRAM WHICH IS DESIGNED TO BENEFIT MANY NATIVE ELDERS WHO MIGHT NOT SHARE IN THE FINAL SETTLEMENT.

THIS IS THE SORT OF PRAGMATIC AND SENSIBLE APPROACH TO CLAIMS WHICH I HEARTILY ENDORSE AND INTEND TO ENCOURAGE.

MY TWO YEARS IN THIS PORTFOLIO HAVE CONVINCED ME THAT THESE TWIN CHARACTERISTICS - PRAGMATISM AND SENSIBILITY - HAVE AN ESSENTIAL BEARING ON OUR PROGRESS TOWARDS EQUITABLE AND, ABOVE ALL, BALANCED DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH.

THESE TWO YEARS HAVE ALSO BEEN MARKED, NOT BY GRANDILOQUENT ANNOUNCEMENTS OF IMPRACTICAL SCHEMES, BUT BY STEADY AND TANGIBLE PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR MUTUAL GOALS OF ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIAL INTEGRITY IN THE NORTH.

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NOTES FOR

AN ADDRESS BY

THE HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

B.C. AND YUKON CHAMBER OF MINES

VANCOUVER, B.C.

MONDAY, MAY 3, 1982

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

MR. CHAIRMAN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTRODUCTION. I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE TODAY.

IT'S A SPECIAL PLEASURE TO BE SHARING THE HEAD TABLE WITH MY COLLEAGUE, RAY PERRAULT, AND WITH DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER WHO ARE DEDICATING SO MUCH OF THEIR EFFORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH.

A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, CANADIANS WERE HONOURED BY THE PRESENCE OF HER MAJESTY FOR THE PROCLAMATION CEREMONIES OF OUR NEW CONSTITUTION. SOME OF HER OBSERVATIONS AT THAT TIME SEEM TO ME TO REFLECT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CHAMBER. HER MAJESTY SAID, FOR EXAMPLE:

> IF THE IDEAL OF THE COUNTRY WHICH CANADIANS WISH TO CONTINUE BUILDING TOGETHER MAY SEEM A DEFIANT CHALLENGE TO HISTORY, THERE IS NEVERTHELESS REASON TO BELIEVE IT CAN BE REALIZED. I HAVE SEEN CANADIANS WORKING TOGETHER, FOR THE GOOD OF ALL THE PEOPLE. I HAVE SEEN THE VISION OF THIS COUNTRY TAKE SHAPE IN THE LIVES OF CANADIANS.

THE ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED HERE TODAY ARE PART OF THE TRADITION HER MAJESTY WAS SPEAKING ABOUT. IN PROSPECTING FOR MINERALS, IN DEVELOPING NEW MINES, IN OPENING NEW COMMUNITIES, YOU ARE MAKING A RICH CONTRIBUTION TO THE BUILDING OF CANADA. WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT THE DARING AND THE PIONEERING SPIRIT WHICH YOU HAVE ABUNDANTLY DEMONSTRATED WILL CONTINUE, AND THAT WE WILL BE MORE THAN A MATCH FOR THE CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD.

IN ADDITION TO MY CABINET RESPONSIBILITIES ON BEHALF OF CANADA'S NATIVE POPULATION, I AM ALSO THE MINISTER FOR NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT.

THIS MEANS THAT I HAVE THE ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR GUIDING THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESTINY OF ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF CANADA'S LAND MASS, THE LANDS LOCATED NORTH OF 60.

MORE TO THE POINT, IT MEANS I'M DIRECTLY INVOLVED AS MINISTER IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CANADA'S "LAST FRONTIER" WHERE LIES MUCH OF OUR ECONOMIC PROMISE FOR THE NEXT FEW DECADES, IN A DELICATE AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT AND WHERE CANADA'S NATIVE PEOPLE HAVE A VITAL STAKE.

FIRST LET ME SAY HOW DISTRESSING IT IS FOR A MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT TO ENCOUNTER THE MARKET SLUMP WHICH HAS TAKEN SUCH A SEVERE TOLL IN THE MINING INDUSTRY IN RECENT MONTHS. DEMAND FOR METALS CONTINUES TO DECLINE AND SO DO THE LEVELS OF PRODUCTION. PRICES ARE FALLING, AND WITH THEM, OPERATING REVENUE. TODAY, ALMOST ALL MINES ARE UN-PROFITABLE. ONE MINE AFTER ANOTHER IS DELIVERING GRIM NEWS OF LAYOFFS AND SHUTDOWNS -- SOME TEMPORARY AND OTHERS PERMANENT.

RATHER THAN NEW DEVELOPMENT, WE ARE ALL CONCERND ABOUT KEEPING PRESENT OPERATIONS IN BUSINESS. I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU ARE ALL UP AGAINST AND I'M WORRIED ABOUT IT.

AS WE ALL KNOW, THE PRESENT SITUATION OF THE NORTHERN MINERAL INDUSTRY IS NOT UNIQUE. YOUR INDUSTRY IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CANADIAN MINERAL SYSTEM, WHICH IN TURN MUST BE VIEWED IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT. THE INDUSTRY IS MAINLY EXPORT ORIENTED, AND THEREFORE IS HIGHLY SENSITIVE TO CONDITIONS IN THE WORLD.

FOR EXAMPLE, LEAD AND ZINC, THE MAIN COMMODITIES PRODUCED IN THE NORTH, ARE MORE THAN 80 PERCENT RELIANT ON FOREIGN MARKETS. THE COMPETITIVE POSITION OF CANADIAN MINES IS INCREASINGLY BEING DEFINED BY CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE, RATHER THAN DOMESTIC CIRCUMSTANCES.

MARKET CONDITIONS ARE HURTING ALL SECTORS OF THE INDUSTRY. WE'RE FACED WITH CYPRUS ANVIL'S PREPARATION FOR A TEMPORARY SHUT-DOWN. WHITEHORSE COPPER IS SLATED FOR A PERMANENT SHUT-DOWN LATER THIS YEAR. ON THE MINE DEVELOPMENT SIDE, THE TOM AND HOWARD'S PASS PROJECTS ARE BOTH ON HOLD.

IN EXPLORATION, IT'S THE SAME STORY. I NOTED YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT THE OTHER DAY, ESTIMATING THAT 1982 EXPLORATION BUDGETS WILL BE DOWN BY 50 PER CENT FROM LAST YEAR. THE PLACER MINING INDUSTRY IS BEING PARTICULARLY HARD HIT.

THE MINING OUTLOOK IN THE N.W.T. HAS SOME BRIGHT SPOTS, BUT THE SITUATION THERE IS ALSO CAUSING A LOT OF ANXIETY TO INVESTORS, OPERATORS, EMPLOYEES AND COMMUNITIES ALIKE.

I DON'T WANT TO MINIMIZE THE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES, BUT I WANT TO SAY TO YOU THAT I AGREE WITH THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT WE WILL SEE AN IMPROVEMENT NEXT YEAR, AND I THINK WE SHOULD ALL BE WORKING TOGETHER TO HAVE NEW PROJECTS READY AS THE MARKETS TURN AROUND.

TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK ABOUT THE NORTH AND THE CRITICAL ROLE THE CANADIAN MINING INDUSTRY IS PLAYING IN OPENING IT UP. SECOND, I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK ABOUT OUR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A NORTHERN MINERAL POLICY, AND HOW THIS POLICY CAN HELP REMOVE THE UNCERTAINTY WHICH HAS SOMETIMES PLAGUED YOUR ENDEAVOURS. AND FINALLY, I'D LIKE TO GET YOUR RESPONSE, I HOPE YOUR APPROVAL, TO MY PROPOSAL THAT WE MUST FORGE NEW BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS SO THAT NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT CAN BRING GREATER BENEFITS TO ALL CANADIANS.

I DON'T HAVE TO REMIND THIS AUDIENCE THAT MINING IS THE MAJOR ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN THE NORTH.

METAL MINING PRODUCTION IN THE YUKON TERRITORY IN 1981 WAS VALUED AT MORE THAN $307 MILLION, COMPARED TO $364 MILLION IN 1980. LOWER METAL PRICES ACCOUNTED FOR MUCH OF THE REDUCED VALUE LAST YEAR.

THE MINES PRODUCE ZINC, LEAD, SILVER, GOLD AND COPPER. GOLD IS ALSO PRODUCED FROM MORE THAN 150 PLACER MINING OPERATIONS. THE THREE MAJOR MINES IN THE YUKON EMPLOYED MORE THAN 1,000 PERSONS LAST YEAR, OR ONE IN SEVEN OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT.

IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, METAL MINING PRODUCTION LAST YEAR WAS VALUED AT $456 MILLION. THIS COMPARED TO $435 MILLION THE YEAR BEFORE. IT INCLUDES ZINC, LEAD, TUNGSTEN, SILVER, GOLD AND COPPER. THE N.W.T. MINES EMPLOYED MORE THAN 2,000 PERSONS -- THAT'S ONE IN SIX OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT.

DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY, MINING ACCOUNTS FOR 20 TO 25 PER CENT OF GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT IN THE YUKON, AND 30 TO 35 PER CENT IN THE N.W.T. IT MAKES THE MAJOR SINGLE CONTRIBUTION TO GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN BOTH TERRITORIES.

BUT TO MAINTAIN THIS LEVEL OF ACTIVITY AND TO INCREASE IT, EXISTING MINES WILL HAVE TO DO MORE EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT WORK TO EXTEND THEIR LIVES, WHERE POSSIBLE. AND NEW MINES WILL HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED. THIS WILL REQUIRE MORE RISK-TAKING AND MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, IT WILL REQUIRE A FEELING OF CONFIDENCE ON THE PART OF INVESTORS AND DEVELOPERS IN BOTH POLICY AND MARKET ENVIRONMENT.

AS A GOVERNMENT, WE CAN TAKE THE STEPS THAT WILL CLARIFY POLICY. BUT EXPLORATION AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT WILL PROBABLY REMAIN DEPRESSED UNTIL WORLD PRICES AND DEMAND FOR METALS IMPROVE.

I AM CONFIDENT, AS I AM SURE YOU ARE, THAT THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE TO REQUIRE THE METALS WE PRODUCE AND WILL DEMAND THEM IN INCREASING AMOUNTS. LONGER TERM PROSPECTS FOR MOST MINERALS ARE GOOD. WHILE MARKETS ARE IN THE DOLDRUMS, WE MUST USE THIS PERIOD TO GET OUR HOUSE IN ORDER AND BE READY FOR THE MARKET RECOVERY. IF WE DO SO, WE CAN ASSURE OUR PLACE AS THE WORLD'S LEADING EXPORTER OF MINERALS. BUT I SAY THAT WE, AS GOVERNMENT, CAN'T ALONE ASSURE A COMPETITIVE AND PRODUCTIVE MINING INDUSTRY.

ONE OF THE INDUSTRY'S CRITICISMS IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T RECOGNIZE THE CONTRIBUTION MINING IS MAKING TO THE NORTHERN ECONOMY, OR ITS POTENTIAL IN THE FUTURE ECONOMY. YOU ARE TELLING ME THERE IS NO FIRM STATEMENT OF SUPPORT BY GOVERNMENT AND THAT A CONSISTENT NORTHERN MINERAL POLICY IS REQUIRED.

FURTHERMORE, YOU ARE TELLING ME THAT THE LACK OF NORTHERN ECONOMIC STRATEGY -- THE LACK OF VISION -- IS WEAKENING THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE FOR YOUR INDUSTRY.

LET ME RESPOND TO THAT. WE ARE CONSULTING CLOSELY WITH THE INDUSTRY. WITH THE HLEP OF THAT CONSULTATION, WE ARE DRAWING UP A NORTHERN ECONOMIC STRATEGY THAT WILL RECOGNIZE THE VITAL CONTRIBUTION MINING IS MAKING, AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE, TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH. A CORNERSTONE OF THE STRATEGY WILL BE THE NEED TO PUT MINING IN THE NORTH ON A SOLID FOOTING.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET ITS SIGHTS ON RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AS ONE OF THE CORNERSTONES FOR CANADA'S ECONOMIC RENEWAL IN THE EIGHTIES.. AND THE NORTH WILL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THIS STRATEGY.

THIS NOTION CAME OUT IN THE GOVERNMENT'S NOVEMBER 1981 BUDGET, AND SOME OF YOU MAY RECALL I WAS HERE ABOUT A MONTH AGO TO DISCUSS CANADA'S ECONOMIC CONDITION WITH B.C. BUSINESS LEADERS. AT THAT TIME, I WAS PLEASED TO HEAR SOME OF YOU SAY THAT INFLATION IS THE GREATEST PROBLEM -- PLEASED BECAUSE THIS IS THE OPINION OF MY COLLEAGUE, THE HON. ALAN MACEACHEN, AND ALL OF US IN THE GOVERNMENT.

WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM BY STANDING FAST IN OUR RESOLVE TO AVOID AN ARBITRARY REDUCTION OF INTEREST RATES, TO RESIST CALLS FOR MASSIVE STIMULATION AND TO CONCENTRATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WITH UNDERSTANDING AND DETERMINATION, THIS APPROACH WILL TURN BACK THE MENACE OF INFLATION.

LET ME TURN NOW TO THE NORTHERN MINERAL POLICY. AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE, GOVERNMENT POLICY, PROGRAMS AND LEGISLATION ARE MAJOR FACTORS DETERMINING WHERE YOU WILL INVEST, WHEN YOU WILL INVEST, AND PERHAPS, MOST IMPORTANTLY, WHETHER YOU WILL INVEST.

VARIOUS FEDERAL POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE INDUSTRY HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS WITHOUT ADEQUATE CONSIDERATION FOR THEIR CUMULATIVE IMPACT. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT METAL MINING CONTRIBUTES MORE THAN $14 BILLION WORTH OF PRODUCT TO THE ECONOMY -- OR MORE THAN $31 BILLION WHEN YOU INCLUDE REFINED METAL AND FABRICATED PRODUCTS -- THIS IS OBVIOUSLY NOT AN ADEQUATE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE.

AS A GOVERNMENT, WE RECOGNIZED THESE SHORTCOMINGS FOLLOWING THE 1980 ELECTION. THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES WAS INSTRUCTED BY CABINET TO EMBARK ON A CONSULTATION PROCESS AIMED AT PRODUCING A NATIONAL MINERAL POLICY.

MY COLLEAGUE, THE HONOURABLE JUDY EROLA, RECENTLY CIRCULATED THE MINERAL POLICY DISCUSSION PAPER AND YOU HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW IT.

THE NORTHERN MINERAL POLICY WHICH MY DEPARTMENT AND I ARE DEVELOPING WILL CONTAIN PROVISIONS TO CONFORM WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S UNIQUE ROLE IN THE NORTH, AS WELL AS WITH SPECIAL NORTHERN CONDITIONS.

I NEED YOUR HELP IN DEVELOPING THIS POLICY. YOU HAVE TOLD ME THAT YOU ARE CONFUSED ABOUT WHERE GOVERNMENT STANDS AND WHAT IT EXPECTS OF YOUR INDUSTRY. YOU HAVE REQUESTED A CLEAR INDICATION OF GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES. YOU WANT TO KNOW THE RULES OF THE GAME WHICH WILL APPLY AT LEAST OVER A 10-YEAR SPAN.

THERE IS SURELY NO QUESTION THAT EXISTING MINING LEGISLATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE YUKON TERRITORY, NEEDS TO BE MODERNIZED. IN BOTH THE YUKON AND N.W.T., WE NEED TO IDENTIFY CLEARLY THE RULES OF THE GAME AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FEDERAL AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS WITH RESPECT TO ALL THE ISSUES RELATED TO MINERAL DEVELOPMENT.

WE HAVE TO RESPOND TO CHANGING SOCIAL ATTITUDES AND CONCERNS IN NORTHERN COMMUNITIES. THIS REQUIRES THAT ALL THE PLAYERS AFFECTED BY MINERAL DEVELOPMENT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INPUT TO THE POLICY FORMULATION.

WE'VE MADE A GOOD START ON DEVELOPING THE POLICY. WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON IT SINCE I FIRST MET WITH THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN OCTOBER 1981. WE CIRCULATED COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL. WE ASKED FOR INPUT FROM THE COMMITTEE, THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS, THE NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS, THE FOUR CHAMBERS OF MINES, THE MINING ASSOCIATION OF CANADA, ORGANIZED LABOUR, SOME OF THE MAJOR MINING COMPANIES AND OTHER FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS.

THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN PRETTY POSITIVE. WE'VE INPUT FROM MOST OF THE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS I'VE JUST MENTIONED. MY OFFICIALS HAVE COMPILED THE INFORMATION AND ANALYZED THE VARIOUS APPROACHES.

A STUDY ON THE PAST INVOLVEMENT OF NATIVE PEOPLE IN MINING AND THE POTENTIAL FOR THEIR FUTURE PARTICIPATION, AS WELL AS A STUDY ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC OF MINING, HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. PROGRESS REPORTS ARE BEING PRESENTED TO THE NMAC. MY OFFICIALS ARE NOW DRAFTING A WORKING PAPER WHICH WILL INCLUDE OPTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS. THIS PAPER WILL BE CIRCULATED FOR YOUR COMMENTS. SUBSEQUENTLY, A MEMORANDUM TO CABINET, WHICH WILL INCLUDE MY RECOMMENDATIONS, WILL BE DEVELOPED.

THE NEED TO DEVELOP NEW INFRASTRUCTURE IS A MAJOR COMPONENT OF MINERAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH, AND WILL NO DOUBT BE ADDRESSED IN THE MINERAL POLICY.

AS YOU KNOW, THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN INFRASTRUCTURE. THIS MADE NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT FEASIBLE. THE PINE POINT INFRASTRUCTURE, FOR EXAMPLE, AMOUNTED TO NEARLY 78 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT. ALL OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL COSTS WERE BORNE BY THE PUBLIC SECTOR. THESE INCLUDED FEDERAL FUNDS FOR THE GREAT SLAVE LAKE RAILWAY, THE INSTALLATION OF HYDRO POWER FOR THE MINE SITE, THE NETWORK OF ROADS AND THE TOWNSITE ITSELF.

IN THE CASE OF CYPRUS ANVIL, INFRASTRUCTURE REPRESENTED ABOUT 42 PERCENT OF PROJECT COSTS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PAID ABOUT 55 PERCENT OF THE COST OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADING, INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC POWER SERVICE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWNSITE.

THE INFRASTRUCTURE WAS PROVIDED ON A COST-SHARING BASIS. BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THE PUBLIC INVESTMENT HAS MADE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROFITABILITY OF THE PRIVATE INVESTMENT.

AS MINISTER IN CHARGE OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT, I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING ALL GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS RELATING TO THE NORTH. THIS INCLUDES THE PREPARATION OF AN ANNUAL NORTHERN EXPENDITURE PLAN WHICH IS DESIGNED TO FACILITATE A BALANCED APPROACH TO THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS. THIS YEAR, ALL FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND THE TWO TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS WILL SPEND ABOUT $969 MILLION NORTH OF 60. NORTHERN MINERAL DEVELOPMENT WILL BE ONE OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF THIS SPENDING PROGRAM.

ON SPECIFIC BENEFITS TO MINING, I WAS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE OTHER DAY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH MY COLLEAGUE, THE HONOURABLE MARC LALONDE, THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES, AN OFF-OIL CONVERSION AND ENERGY CONSERVATION PACKAGE. THE PACKAGE INCLUDES IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING ENERGY PROGRAMS AND THE EXTENSION OF PRICE SUBSIDIES FOR A YEAR. THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE PACKAGE IS WORTH MORE THAN $19 MILLION TO THE YUKON AND THE N.W.T., AND SHOULD PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED RELIEF TO THE POWER COSTS OF BOTH INDUSTRY AND HOUSEHOLDS.

OF MORE SPECIFIC INTEREST TO THE MINING INDUSTRY, EARLIER THIS YEAR, I ANNOUNCED THE $58 MILLION LOAN TO THE NORTHERN CANADA POWER COMMISSION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE FOURTH WHEEL AT WHITEHORSE. THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO COMMITTED TO SPEND UP TO $400,000 TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SUPPLIES FROM LOCAL SOURCES.

I HAVE OFTEN HEARD THE LACK OF POWER USED AS A REASON FOR NOT PROCEEDING WITH DEVELOPMENT. I CAN'T SEE THIS AS BEING A REAL PROBLEM IN THE YUKON AT THIS TIME. WE'RE WILLING TO INVEST IN POWER AND WE'RE DOING THAT NOW.

THE ENERGY PROBLEMS OF THE NORTH ARE NOT ALL SOLVED AND MY DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUCTION WITH ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES, WILL BE EXAMINING WAYS AND MEANS OF FORMULATING AN ENERGY STRATEGY TO RESOLVE THESE ISSUES.

PART OF THE WORK WILL INCLUDE THE EXAMINATION OF THE ROLE OF NCPC, NOW THAT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT HAS TABLED ITS REPORT.

SOME OF YOU ARE PROBABLY ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH THIS REPORT. IN WHICH CASE, YOU KNOW IT CONCLUDES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEED NOT BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN DELIVERING POWER IN THE NORTH. IT SAYS TOO THAT POWER SHOULD BE SUPPLIED AT RATES COMPARABLE TO THOSE IN THE REST OF CANADA BY A UTILITY RESPONSIVE TO EACH TERRITORY'S NEEDS.

I WILL CERTAINLY GIVE VERY CAREFUL STUDY TO THIS REPORT AND WILL PREPARE A PLAN FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION.

A YEAR AGO, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED AN INTEREST-FREE LOAN OF $5 MILLION FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WHITE PASS AND YUKON RAILWAY. ABOUT 99 PERCENT OF THE OUTBOUND TRAFFIC ON

THIS RAILWAY CONSISTS OF ORE SHIPPED FROM THE YUKON. CYPRUS ANVIL, WHITE PASS AND THE U.S. FEDERAL AND ALASKAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALSO AGREED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE RENOVATION OF THIS LINE.

THOUGH WE'VE DONE A LOT OF WORK ON THE NORTHERN MINERAL POLICY, THE REVIEW IS NOT YET COMPLETED. IN THE MEANTIME, I CAN INDICATE TO YOU, SOME OF THE CONSIDERATIONS I PERSONALLY WANT TO SEE IN THE POLICY.

I WOULD WANT, FOR EXAMPLE, TO INCLUDE A STATEMENT ON THE FUNDAMENTAL ROLE MINING PLAYS IN THE NORTHERN ECONOMY, AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO FOSTER, PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE PROSPECTING, EXPLORATION AND MINING IN THE YEARS TO COME.

I WOULD LIKE TO DEMONSTRATE IN OUR POLICY THAT GOVERNMENT WILL HELP THE INDUSTRY TO REMAIN INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE AND THAT ALL INVESTORS ARE WELCOME. THIS ASSUMES THEY FULLY RECOGNIZE THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF NORTHERNERS AND THE NEED TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

I RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR SUSTAINED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH. GIVEN THE DIFFICULTIES, I AM PREPARED TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE INVESTMENT IN KEY INFRASTRUCTURE JUST AS WE DID WITH WHITEHORSE NO.4. IN OTHER WORDS, GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE THE LONG TERM PERSPECTIVE IN HOPE THAT IN THE LONG TERM, WE WILL RECOUP THESE COSTS.

I HOPE THE POLICY WILL CLARIFY THE ROLES OF THE FEDERAL AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS IN FUTURE MINERAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE POLICY WILL PLACE SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON NATIVE PEOPLES' CONCERNS BY ADDRESSING SUCH ISSUES AS LAND CLAIMS, JOINT VENTURES AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.

THE POLICY WILL REFLECT THE NEED FOR IMPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING. ONE ASPECT OF THIS IS LAND USE PLANNING. PLANNING IS THE KEY TO RESOLVING ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CONCERNS IN ADVANCE OF DEVELOPMENT, THUS REDUCING THE UNCERTAINTIES AND RISK TO INVESTMENT.

I BELIEVE THAT LAND USE PLANNING CAN ASSIST THE INDUSTRY THROUGH THE JUDICIOUS APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS TO DEVELOPMENT SITES. A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE PROVISION OF SERVICES IN THE MACPASS AREA.

I APPRECIATE THAT THE INDUSTRY IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR WITHDRAWING LANDS FROM EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT. BUT I MUST EMPHASIZE THAT LAND USE PLANNING DOES NOT GENERATE SUCH PROPOSALS. ON THE CONTRARY, THE PROCESS WILL, IN EFFECT, SCRUTINIZE PROPOSALS, AND ASSIST GOVERNMENT TO BEST RESPOND TO INDUSTRY INITIATIVES.

CRITICAL AND UNIQUE ECOLOGICAL AREAS MUST BE PROTECTED BUT OTHER VALUABLE RESOURCES MUST BE DEVELOPED. LAND USE PLANNING WILL ALLOW FOR A CLARIFICATION AND RESOLUTION OF COMPETING USES.

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S WATCHDOG ROLE WHEN IT COMES TO LAND USE MANAGEMENT, WHICH INCLUDES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND OUR COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL OBJECTIVES. I DARE SAY SOME OF YOU HAVE MADE THE OBSERVATION IN THE PAST THAT THE WATCHDOG HAS, ON OCCASION, BROKEN ITS LEASH. WE'VE RECOGNIZED THAT OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS.

IN FACT, SIX NEW MINES IN VARIOUS STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT, HAVE SATISFIED THE GOVERNMENT THAT THEY WOULD MEET THE SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS WE ARE CHARGED WITH MONITORING. AS SUCH, THEY HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO PROCEED WITHOUT THE COSTLY AND TIME-CONSUMING ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT HEARINGS. RED TAPE WAS NOT A PROBLEM IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLARIS PROJECT, CULLATON, LUPIN AND CADILLAC, AND WILL NOT BE A PROBLEM IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE MACTUNG MINE.

I'M PLEASED TO SAY THAT THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE DEMONSTRATING THAT THEY'RE GOOD CORPORATE CITIZENS. THEY'VE MEASURED UP.

I SHOULD ALSO SAY A WORD ABOUT THE NEW ROYALTY REGIME,NOW UNDER DEVELOPMENT.

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE NEW REGIME WILL REMAIN COMPETITIVE WITH MINING TAXATION IN THE PROVINCES, AND THE INDUSTRY'S CYCLICAL CHARACTER WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED. EARLY THIS FALL, I WILL BE INVITING YOU TO GIVE ME YOUR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ROYALTY PROPOSAL.

I'M AWARE OF YOUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER NATIVE PEOPLES' CONCERNS. . . ESPECIALLY YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF LAND CLAIMS. I'M AWARE OF YOUR POSITION . . . AND YOUR POSITIVE ACTION WHEN IT COMES TO JOINT VENTURES AND TRAINING PROGRAMS WITH NATIVE PEOPLES. I'M PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN YOUR CONTINUING INPUT ON THESE ISSUES AS WELL AS PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO STIMULATE NORTHERN MINERAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE POLICY THAT WILL GUIDE THE FUTURE COURSE OF DEVELOPMENT WILL ALSO BE INFLUENCED BY THE NORTHERN MINERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE WAS SET UP IN 1978 IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM THE MINING COMMUNITY. ITS MEMBERS INCLUDE OFFICIALS OF MY DEPARTMENT AND ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES, AND THE FOUR CHAMBERS OF MINES. I COUNT ON THE COMMITTEE TO KEEP ME UP TO DATE ON DEVELOPMENTS AND NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRY. IT CONTINUES TO DO A SPLENDID JOB. ALSO IN RESPONSE TO THE MINERAL INDUSTRY'S REQUEST, I APPOINTED A MINERAL ADVISOR. BOB SPENCE, FORMERLY AN ENGINEER WITH GIANT YELLOWKNIFE MINES AND PRESIDENT OF THE N.W.T. CHAMBER OF MINES, JOINED MY STAFF LAST NOVEMBER.

BEFORE MOVING ON TO SOMETHING ELSE OF GREAT INTEREST TO YOU, LET ME BRIEFLY TOUCH ON ANOTHER TOPIC.

YOU HAVE COMPLAINED THAT MINING AND MINERAL-RELATED MATTERS DO NOT ENJOY ENOUGH VISIBILITY IN MY DEPARTMENT. THIS SHOULD NO LONGER BE A WORRY. I WANT TO STRENGTHEN THIS FUNCTION AND GIVE IT THE DEPARTMENTAL RESOURCES THAT IT RICHLY DESERVES.

NOW, I'D LIKE TO DEAL BRIEFLY WITH WHAT I'M DOING REGARDING THE TAXATION OF NORTHERN BENEFITS. I KNOW THE ISSUE IS A SOURCE OF ANXIETY AND FRUSTRATION TO THE NORTHERN MINERAL INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYEES ALIKE.

YOU ALL KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT THE GOVERNMENT RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO REPRESENTATION BY NORTHERNERS AND EXTENDED THE MORATORIUM ON THE TAXATION OF BENEFITS TO THE END OF 1982.

SINCE LAST FALL, IN COOPERATION WITH MY COLLEAGUES, I HAVE BEEN DEVOTING TIME AND ENERGY TO THE ISSUE. I HAVE HEARD REPRESENTATIONS BY NORTHERNERS. I HAVE MET WITH MINING COMPANY OFFICIALS AND TRADE UNION OFFICERS. I'VE RECEIVED SOME THOUGHT-PROVOKING BRIEFS FROM THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS AND A RANGE OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. NEEDLESS TO SAY, I'M PREPARED TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL POINTS OF VIEW.

BELIEVE ME, I DON'T NEED TO BE CONVINCED THAT A PROBLEM EXISTS. I'M ALSO AWARE THAT A FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE REMISSION ORDER IS THE PREFERRED SOLUTION OF NEARLY ALL THOSE WHO HAVE COME FORWARD, UNTIL A SATISFACTORY PERMANENT SOLUTION IS FOUND.

WHEN I RECOMMEND A PROPOSAL TO MY COLLEAGUES, I WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER THE EQUITY AND FAIRNESS OF CONTINUING OR NOT CONTINUING THE TAX-FREE STATUS OF THE ALLOWANCES. I ALSO HAVE TO CONSIDER THE REPRESENTATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE TO GOVERNMENT BY SOME SMALL BUSINESSES WHICH FEEL THEY ARE AT A COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE, AND BY EMPLOYEES IN NORTHERN COMMUNITIES WHO DO NOT RECEIVE TAX-FREE BENEFITS.

ANOTHER PROBLEM WITH EXISTING NORTHERN BENEFITS IS WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE ON THE MAP. IS IT FAIR, FOR EXAMPLE, TO ALLOW TAX-FREE STATUS TO BENEFITS PAID TO, SAY, WHITEHORSE RESIDENTS, BUT IGNORE MORE ISOLATED COMMUNITIES SUCH AS ATLIN AND TELEGRAPH CREEK?

IN THE MEANTIME, AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL TASK FORCE, CHAIRED BY MY DEPARTMENT, IS WORKING ON THE PROBLEM. THE OFFICIALS WILL BE IN THE NORTH OVER THE COMING WEEKS TO CONDUCT ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS AND GET FIRST-HAND INFORMATION. THEY'LL ALSO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS OUR PRELIMINARY FINDINGS WITH ALL THE INTERESTED PARTIES.

AS WE ALL KNOW, THE ISSUE IS A COMPLEX ONE. WHILE IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASILY RESOLVED, IT'S GETTING OUR BEST EFFORT. MY COLLEAGUES AND I ARE WORKING TO IDENTIFY A POSSIBLE SOLUTION WELL BEFORE THE REMISSION ORDER EXPIRES, AND I TRUST THAT IT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL CONCERNED, INCLUDING THE NORTHERN MINERAL INDUSTRY. I AM AWARE OF THE SERIOUS POTENTIAL IMPACT THE LOSS OF THESE BENEFITS MAY HAVE ON THE VIABILITY OF NORTHERN MINES AND ON THE RETENTION OF SKILLED WORKERS, NOT TO MENTION INHIBITING FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

FINALLY, LET ME SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY TO FORGE NEW BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH.

LET'S LOOK AT IT THIS WAY. THE MINERAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH IS PART OF NATIONAL MINERAL DEVELOPMENT, BUT WITH A DIFFERENCE. IT'S DIFFERENT FOR TWO BASIC REASONS.

FIRST, IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES, AS WELL AS IN CANADA'S OFFSHORE REGIONS AND THE NATIONAL PARKS, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS A CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGING MINERAL RESOURCES. IN THE TERRITORIES NEARLY 100 PER CENT OF THE LAND IS UNDER FEDERAL CONTROL.

SECOND, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO SETTLE THE COMPREHENSIVE LAND CLAIMS OF THE NATIVE PEOPLE, AND MOST OF THE MAJOR CLAIMS ARE IN THE NORTH. SOME OF THESE CLAIMS ARE GETTING VERY CLOSE TO BEING SETTLED.

SO IN THE NORTH YOU ARE DEALING WITH FEDERAL JURISDICTION AND YOU ARE LOOKING FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN A PART OF CANADA WHERE NATIVE PEOPLE HAVE A PRIME INTEREST IN THE LAND.

I DON'T THINK ANY OF US WANTS TO RETURN TO THE KIND OF CONFRONTATIONS THAT CHARACTERIZED THE PERIOD OF THE BERGER INQUIRY. THE NATIVE PEOPLE RESISTED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS BECAUSE THEY FELT THEY COULD DESTROY THEIR COMMUNITIES, THEIR CULTURE, THEIR LIFESTYLE. AT THE SAME TIME THEY COULD ANTICIPATE LITTLE OR NO ECONOMIC BENEFIT COMING TO THEIR PEOPLE AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

IN RETROSPECT, IT'S NOT TOO HARD TO ACCEPT THE INTEGRITY OF THE POSITION ADOPTED BY THE NATIVE PEOPLE. WE'D REACT THE SAME WAY TO AN EXPRESSWAY OR A HYDRO RIGHT OF WAY THAT WAS GOING TO BE BUILT THROUGH OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WITHOUT REGARD FOR OUR INTEREST.

IN THE LAST YEAR OR SO, HOWEVER, THERE'S BEEN AN ENCOURAGING CHANGE IN ATTITUDES TOWARD DEVELOPMENT. I THINK THIS IS DUE TO TWO THINGS.

ONE, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS COMMITMENT TO THE SETTLEMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE LAND CLAIMS.

DELAYS ON THE CLAIMS HAVE BEEN A SOURCE OF IRRITATION AND FRUSTRATION FOR THE NATIVE PEOPLE, WHILE THEIR SETTLEMENT PROMISES TO OPEN DOORS TO IMPRESSIVE ECONOMIC BENEFITS. THE LAND CLAIM SETTLEMENTS WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR NATIVE PEOPLE TO CHANGE THEIR RELATIONSHIP FROM OUTSIDERS TO PARTNERS. THE SETTLEMENTS WILL ALSO REMOVE ONE OF THE MAJOR SOURCES OF UNCERTAINTY NOW INHIBITING INVESTMENT DECISIONS. THAT'S CLEARLY IMPORTANT.

THE SECOND REASON FOR THE CHANGE IN ATTITUDES WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENT IS THAT NORTHERNERS THEMSELVES, INCLUDING THE NATIVE PEOPLE, WANT A NEW DEAL.

DAVID PORTER, THE VICE CHAIRMAN IN CHARGE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT THE COUNCIL FOR YUKON INDIANS, HAS STATED QUITE EMPHATICALLY THE NEW ATTITUDE OF NORTHERN NATIVES. THEY ARE IN FAVOUR OF DEVELOPMENT THAT INVOLVES NATIVE PEOPLE AS EQUAL PARTNERS.

MR. PORTER TOLD THE ANNUAL NORTHERN RESOURCES CONFERENCE AT WHITEHORSE LAST OCTOBER THAT "NATIVE PEOPLE ACROSS THE NORTH ARE GOING TO BE MAJOR PLAYERS IN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHETHER THE NATIVE PEOPLE ASSUME THIS ROLE IN A SPIRIT OF CONFRONTATION, OR ONE OF COOPERATION, IS PRIMARILY UP TO THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY.

THE YUKON INDIANS HAVE ALSO PROPOSED A PUBLIC RESOURCE CORPORATION INVOLVING NATIVES AND NON-NATIVES. MR. PORTER SUGGESTED THAT SUCH A CORPORATION WOULD PROVIDE YUKONERS WITH THE RIGHT TO EARN -- AND HE STRESSED THE WORD EARN -- EQUITY PARTICIPATION IN SPECIFIC PROJECTS.

THIS IS THE PARTNERSHIP DIRECTION WE MUST FOSTER IN THE NORTH. I HAVE INSTRUCTED MY OFFICIALS TO DEVELOP A POLICY, BUT WE'RE ALREADY SEEING PRACTICE GET A HEAD START. I'M ALL FOR THAT.

LET ME GIVE YOU TWO OR THREE EXAMPLES.

IN THE MACMILLAN PASS AREA, AMAX OF CANADA HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO AN OPEN PLANNING PROCESS IN THE

DEVELOPMENT OF ITS MACTUNG PROJECT. THIS WILL ALLOW INTERESTED PARTIES, INCLUDING THE NATIVE PEOPLE, TO PROVIDE INPUT DURING THE PLANNING STAGE. AMAX HAS ALSO INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER FAIR EQUITY PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS WITH NATIVE PEOPLE. A COOPERATIVE, WORKMANLIKE APPROACH HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BETWEEN MY OFFICIALS AND THE COMPANY'S MANAGEMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT AND AMAX AGREED TO A COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENT FOR FURTHER STUDIES CONCERNING THE PRE-CONSTRUCTION STAGE OF THE NORTH CANOL ROAD AND THE BRIDGE AMOUNTING TO ABOUT ONE MILLION DOLLARS IN THE 1982/83 FISCAL YEAR ALONE.

WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WE ARE HAVING WITH AMAX ON THE ALLOCATION OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS WILL BE SATISFACTORY TO BOTH PARTIES.

AMAX HAS BEEN ASSURED BY DIAND OF ITS COMMITMENT TO FACILITATE THE COMPANY'S WORK PLAN. WITHIN A MONTH OR SO, A LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DIAND AND AMAX WILL BE DRAFTED. IT WILL SET OUT AREAS OF AGREEMENT ON OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS TO BE ATTAINED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MINE.

THIS IS AN APPROACH TO INDUSTRY-GOVERNMENT COOPERATION WHICH, I BELIEVE, CONTRIBUTES TO INVESTOR CONFIDENCE AND ABOVE ALL, WILL PRODUCE HARD RESULTS.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE IS THE NORMAN WELLS PROJECT, WHICH IS OWNED ONE-THIRD BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THOUGH THIS IS NOT A MINERAL DEVELOPMENT, IT PROVIDES A GOOD MODEL OF THE KIND OF ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP WHICH WE SHOULD ALL BE ENCOURAGING.

ESSO RESOURCES, THE PRINCIPAL DEVELOPER, IS MAKING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO NORTHERN RESIDENTS, INCLUDING THE NATIVE POPULATION, IN EMPLOYMENT. IN ADDITION, IT IS NEGOTIATING A JOINT VENTURE COMPANY WITH THE NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS SO THAT THEY CAN PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY. POTENTIALLY THIS COMPANY WILL OPERATE ONE DRILLING RIG, ONE SERVICE RIG AND ONE 200-MAN CAMP. AS PART OF THE PROJECT, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING OVER $20 MILLION OVER FIVE YEARS TO SUPPORT SKILL TRAINING FOR NATIVE PEOPLE AND TO OPEN JOB OPPORTUNITIES.

STILL ANOTHER EXAMPLE IS THE CULLATON LAKE GOLD MINE, A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE INUIT AND A TORONTO MINING GROUP.

THE INUIT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WAS CREATED BY INUIT TAPIRISAT OF CANADA TO INITIATE AND DEVELOP INVESTMENT

AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE EASTERN ARCTIC. IT BORROWED ABOUT $27 MILLION AGAINST ITS FUTURE LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENT, THEN LENT THE MONEY AT COST TO CULLATON TO HELP BRING THE MINE INTO PRODUCTION. IF THE IDC EXERCISES ALL OF ITS OPTIONS OVER THE NEXT FOUR OR FIVE YEARS, IT WILL OWN ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF THE COMPANY.

HERE IS A NATIVE ORGANIZATION MAKING A SOLID COMMITMENT AS A RISK-TAKER. FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD, IT WILL TAKE ITS SHARE OF THE PROFITS. AS A RIST-TAKER, IT WILL BEAR ITS SHARE OF ANY LOSSES THAT MAY ACCRUE.

THE IDC IS ALSO RECRUITING MANPOWER FOR COMINCO'S LEAD-ZINC PROJECT ON LITTLE CORNWALLIS ISLAND IN THE HIGH ARCTIC. THE CONTRACT CALLS FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF NON-MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES. IDC EXPECTS THAT WITH TRAINING FACILITIES IT WILL BE IN A POSITION AT A LATER STAGE TO SUPPLY SUPERVISORY AND MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL.

THE POLARIS/ITSELF PROJECT INCLUDES SOME INTERESTING FEATURES, ONE OF WHICH IS A SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN. YOU SHOULD ANTICIPATE THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT, OR VARIATIONS OF IT, WILL BECOME A PRACTICE OF FUTURE

OPERATIONS IN THE NORTH.

IN CONCLUSION, LET ME SAY THAT IN THE NORTH WE NOW HAVE A NUMBER OF STAKE-HOLDERS OF DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS WITH A COMMON INTEREST IN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.

IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO SUPPORT MAJOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL CANADIANS BUT PRUDENTLY AND WITH THE INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT OF NORTHERN RESIDENTS. IT WILL BE ALSO TO OUR CREDIT IF THE NORTH DEVELOPS IN A BALANCED WAY TO THE BENEFIT OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY.

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STATEMENT BY THE

HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

TO THE

FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL CONFERENCE

ON INDIAN ISSUES

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK

MAY 4, 1982

(Check against delivery)

I am very pleased to be able to participate today together with Ministers of the Provincial and Territorial Governments and Indian leaders, in this Federal-Provincial-Territorial Conference, on Indian issues. We will be focussing our attention today on Indian issues of immediate mutual concern to all levels of Government and the Indian people of Canada.

I am particularly pleased that in this first formal meeting of Federal-Provincial Ministers on this subject in over 15 years, we are joined by Indian leaders. Our meeting today is not a decision-making meeting but instead is an opportunity to share in a preliminary way, information in respect of various priority issues and initiatives and to discuss possible areas for future consultation and co-operation.

I should emphasize, at this point, that as we move into our discussion of the substantive agenda today I will be particularly concerned with the question of Indian representation in any future discussions, particularly discussions which may be of a decision-making nature. I feel that this must be a matter of priority attention on the part of all Governmental representatives. As indicated in the Federal discussion paper, the Federal Government views effective working relationships between Indian people and all levels of Government as critical if progress is to be made on the major issues facing Indian people today.

We are all aware that our discussions here today do not relate in any way to Phase II Constitutional discussions. It should be emphasized, however, once again that the Federal Government does not see the information discussions that will take place at this Conference as dealing in any way with the future constitutional process or the substantive issues and concerns that will likely be addressed at that constitutional process including the important question of future identification and definition of Aboriginal Rights. My general hope, however, is that we can today establish the kind of spirit which we will be able to carry forward into our discussions with representatives of the various aboriginal groups in respect of the Constitution at future dates.

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I would mention that I have read the "Provincial Task Force Report on Native Issues" with considerable interest. I appreciate that this document reflects a number of questions and concerns that the Provincial Governments have in respect of present and future Federal policies in relation to Canada's Status Indian population. The Federal Public Document which I have tabled with this Conference attempts to indicate my views and my perceptions of general Federal Government directionl thrusts respecting most of the items which are listed on our agenda today. I have attempted in that document to give a general indication of Federal perceptions and views in the main areas which Provincial Ministers have touched upon in their report.

I have been encouraged by a number of recent developments which demonstrate to me that the two levels of Government can work effectively with Indian people in addressing major policy concerns. Recent examples of this type of co-operation include:

- The conclusion of an Agreement in February of this year between the Governments of British Columbia and Canada involving the Penticton Band which saw the settlement of the first and largest of the so-called cut-off land claims to be negotiated in British Columbia.

- The Agreement recently concluded between the Federal Government and the Government of Ontario and representatives of the Indian people of Ontario to develop amendments to the Ontario Fishery Regulations.

- The recent Agreement between the Governments of Canada and Manitoba and the Four Nations Confederacy of Manitoba respecting Indian Child Welfare Services.

- The Agreement concluded between the Governments of Newfoundland and Canada involving the various Native groups of Newfoundland and Labrador providing for a range of programs and services to the various Native communities in Newfoundland-Labrador.

In addition, I would mention that I am encouraged by the level of dialogue and progress that has been made in respect of a number of important issues in the province of Ontario through the Ontario Tripartite structure which involves both levels of Government and the Indian

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Associations of that province. While the items that I have mentioned are not comprehensive of all of the advances that have been made in the last two years, I feel that they do indicate that we are making increasing progress as Governments in dealing co-operatively with Indian people on the pragmatic issues that face them on a day-to-day basis. I feel that our presence here today is a further acknowledgement of the fact that we seek to discuss issues and arrive at solutions through co-operative arrangemments.

Our agenda today involves many of the key Indian issues which involve Federal, Provincial and Territorial Governments in varying degrees. The Federal Government approaches these issues separately and together with the following overall objectives:

(a) A desire to see the definition and enhanced respect for the special rights of Indian people, in the context of the special relationship that exists between the Federal Government and Indian people.

(b) A desire to meet obligations and settle grievances as well as Comprehensive and Specific Claims of Indian people.

(c) A desire to foster economic development and self-reliance on the part of Indian people, and in this context to strengthen Indian Band Government on reserve and to encourage and sustain sound foundations for comprehensive, social and economic growth.

Of particular interest to me is our agenda item on fishing, hunting and trapping issues. I have received many representations from Indian people that this is an important issue to them, and it is for this reason that I have proposed this as an agenda item.

I will leave my comments on specific agenda items until we commence our discussions in more detail but I would like to emphasize my feeling that evidence of a continuing Federal commitment to work towards positive solutions in the areas covered by the agenda is abundant. For example, by March 31, 1981, 385 bands across Canada were administering programs on reserve. Almost all bands are now delivering some programs themselves under the direction of their Councils. In

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British Columbia, for example, 60% of the Department of Indian Affairs Regional budget is now administered by Indian bands and Indian organizations. In the area of economic development, the Federal Government has set aside $358 Million in economic development funds specifically directed towards Native peoples. The allocation in the November budget accounted for $345 Million of this. An additional $8 Million was earmarked last year to ensure that particularly deserving economic opportunities were not lost for lack of funds. In addition, $5 Million was allocated to help Indian people take advantage of major resource developments.

On land claims the Federal Government realizes that the major impetus for the successful economic and social development of Native communities will come in many parts of the country from the equitable settlement of outstanding land claims. Our faith in this process which is based upon recognition of legitimate claims of Native people is demonstrated by the fact that our base for loans to Native claimants in the fiscal year 1982-83 has been increased from $8.4 Million to $14.3 Million. In looking at the critical area of services, a number of important strides have been made. In the area of housing, we have nearly doubled funding in the last two years and have made important adjustments to the housing program to ensure quality construction.

In the area of child care, I am encouraged by recent developments particularly in the province of Manitoba. Since July 1, 1981 Canada has had its first all-Indian agency (the Dakota-Ojibway Tribal Council) assume legal responsibility under the Manitoba Child Welfare Act for the provision of child care services. On February 22, 1982 Canada, Manitoba and the Four Nations Confederacy of Manitoba signed a new Child Welfare Agreement under which significant control in respect of Indian child welfare services was turned over to the Indian authorities. In the area of strengthening Indian Band Government, I anticipate that I will continue to receive more Indian positions on suggested parameters for local government. I have had numerous discussions in the past on this important subject and Federal thinking is beginning to take some shape. I am in the process of finalizing proposals respecting changes that could occur in this area and it is my hope that these proposals will be complete and be considered and hopefully accepted by the

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Federal Cabinet as a basis for future discussions with Indian people and with other interested and affected parties including other levels of government. I would emphasize that full opportunity will be provided for consultations on this important subject before any new changes are effected. In addition, I can assure you that any legislation, if it is introduced, will be optional, i.e. Indian Band Government will only be made available to those bands desiring it while leaving the Indian Act in place for those bands preferring the present situation. I will leave my more specific comments for our discussion on each of the agenda items.

In closing, it is my hope that we can develop and maintain a spirit of joint co-operation in our discussions of the important issues on the agenda today and it is my further hope that spirit of co-operation will be maintained significantly beyond this particular Conference. For the Federal Government's part I can commit myself to making the best effort possible to share with you information relating to the agenda topics which we will be discussing and to answering as many of your questions as I can in a positive and open manner. I look forward to our discussions over the rest of this day.

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NOTES FOR A SPEECH

BY

RAYMOND CHENIER, M.P.

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER OF

INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA

ON BEHALF OF

THE HON. JOHN C. MUNRO

AT THE SIGNING OF THE INTERJURISDICTIONAL

CARIBOU MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

WINNIPEG, JUNE 3, 1982

IAND 126 (2-82) 7530-21-023-8418

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THE HONOURABLE JOHN MUNRO HAS ASKED ME TO CONVEY HIS REGRETS THAT HE IS UNABLE TO ATTEND TODAY. IT IS WITH REAL PLEASURE THAT I, HIS PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, PARTICIPATE IN THE CEREMONY ON HIS BEHALF, JOINING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JURISDICTIONS AND COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE A CONCERN FOR THE CARIBOU HERDS THAT ROAM THE KEEWATIN DISTRICT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND THE NORTHERN PARTS OF SASKATCHEWAN AND MANITOBA IN THE SIGNING AND WITNESSING OF AN AGREEMENT THAT WILL DO MUCH TO DETERMINE HOW THOSE CARIBOU HERDS WILL BE MANAGED IN THE FUTURE.

THIS AGREEMENT IS THE FIRST TO BE FORMALLY SIGNED TO PROVIDE FOR THE JOINT MANAGEMENT -- BY GOVERNMENTS AND BY THE NATIVE PEOPLES -- OF A MAJOR WILDLIFE RESOURCE. THE FACT THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AT ALL IS A TRIBUTE TO THE FAR-SIGHTEDNESS OF ALL INVOLVED -- THE WILDLIFE MANAGERS WHO HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THE REAL CONTRIBUTION THAT CAN BE MADE BY NATIVE PEOPLES ON THE BASIS OF THEIR INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF WILDLIFE BEHAVIOUR AND THE NATIVE PEOPLE THEMSELVES, WHO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT SCIENTIFIC METHODS ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF ANY VIABLE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT THIS MEETING SHOULD BE TAKING PLACE IN WINNIPEG. IT WAS HERE IN DECEMBER 1980 THAT FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL MINISTERS FIRST GATHERED TO DISCUSS THEIR COMMON CONCERN OVER THE STATUS OF THE KAMINURIAK AND BEVERLEY HERDS OF BARRENGROUND CARIBOU.

IT WAS AGREED BY ALL PRESENT AT THAT TIME THAT THE DECLINE IN NUMBERS OF THE TWO HERDS IS A CRITICAL PROBLEM. THE MINISTERS PUBLICLY UNDERTOOK TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM IN A CONCERTED FASHION, WITH CLOSE INVOLVEMENT OF THE NATIVE PEOPLE WHO ARE THE PRIMARY USERS OF THE RESOURCE.

IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT AN INTENSIVE CONSULTATION PROCESS WOULD BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO WORK OUT A LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR MANAGEMENT OF BOTH HERDS. THERE WAS UNANIMITY THAT COOPERATIVE ACTION BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND THE PEOPLE CONCERNED WAS REQUIRED TO RESOLVE WHAT WAS CONSIDERED TO BE A GRAVE SITUATION.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THAT MEETING A SET OF PRINCIPLES WAS DRAFTED, DECLARING (AMONG OTHER THINGS) THAT NATIVE PEOPLE BE INVOLVED IN ANY SOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT CONSULTATIONS WITH THEM AND THAT WORK WOULD PROCEED TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND STRUCTURE OF AN INTERJURISDICTIONAL CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD, THAT WOULD GIVE DUE RECOGNITION TO THE NEED FOR NATIVE PEOPLE TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE TEAM.

SHORTLY AFTER THAT MEETING, JOHN MUNRO WROTE TO ALL OF THE PRESIDENTS AND HEADS OF THE NATIVE ASSOCIATIONS INVOLVED ASKING FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE KAMINURIAK AND BEVERLEY CARIBOU. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE RESULTS ACHIEVED WOULD DEPEND ON THE GOODWILL AND COOPERATION OF MANY PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS, AND CONCLUDED THAT THE EFFORT MUST BE A JOINT ONE OF NATIVE REPRESENTATIVES, USERS, GOVERNMENT BIOLOGISTS, WILDLIFE MANAGERS AND OTHERS.

FORTUNATELY FOR THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE CARIBOU, THE RESPONSE FROM THE NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS WAS IMMEDIATE AND GENEROUS.

JIM BOURQUE, WHO WAS THEN PRESIDENT OF THE METIS ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND HAS NOW MOVED ON TO BECOME DEPUTY MINISTER OF RENEWABLE RESOURCES IN YELLOWKNIFE, SAID "IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS NORTHERN PEOPLE, AS RESIDENTS OF THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY, TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR DESCENDANTS, OUR CHILDREN, ENJOY WHAT WE'VE ENJOYED AS FAR AS NATURE, AS FAR AS HABITAT, AS FAR AS WILDLIFE IS CONCERNED AND I THINK IT IS SOMETHING WE CAN'T SHRUG OFF. WE HAVE TO FACE UP TO IT."

HE WENT ON, "THIS IS ONE OF THE LAST PERIODS WHERE WE MIGHT HAVE CARIBOU, THAT IS,FREE-ROAMING HERDS OF CARIBOU OF THE MAGNITUDE THAT WE HAVE NOW. BUT WE SEE THAT SOME OF THESE HERDS ARE DWINDLING QUITE RAPIDLY BECAUSE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY, BECAUSE OF MANY REASONS. I THINK THAT MANAGING AND MAKING PEOPLE AWARE THAT THERE'S NOT A BOTTOMLESS BUCKET OF ANIMALS IS IMPORTANT, MAKING THEM REALIZE THAT THERE IS AN END IN SIGHT."

AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME THE KEEWATIN INUIT, RESPONDING TO THE URGENCY OF THE SITUATION, FORMED THE KEEWATIN WILDLIFE FEDERATION AND SENT REPRESENTATIVES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FORMATION OF AN INTERIM CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD. LUKE SULUK, ONE OF THE INITIATORS OF THE NEW FEDERATION, SAID ONE OF ITS PURPOSES WAS TO WORK WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON MANAGEMENT QUESTIONS AND TO ENSURE THAT INUIT CONSENT TO AND PARTICIPATE IN STUDIES AND SURVEYS. "THE COMMUNITIES WILL SIT DOWN AND TALK ABOUT WHAT THEY THINK IS HAPPENING, WHAT WILL HAPPEN," HE SAID "AND WILL WORK WITH GOVERNMENT PEOPLE IN ORDER TO COME UP WITH AN AGREEMENT."

THE PEOPLE IN THE PROVINCES WERE ALSO DOING THEIR VALUABLE PART. CHIEF LEON COOK OF BLACK LAKE, SASKATCHEWAN, TOLD A MEETING OF NATIVE PEOPLE IN THOMPSON, MANITOBA, IN JUNE 1981 THAT "WE'RE HERE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE OF MANITOBA AND OTHER PLACES. WE WANT TO WORK ALONG WITH PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT REGIONS. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A PROBLEM THAT EXISTS TODAY. THIRTY YEARS FROM NOW WE'D LIKE OUR CHILDREN TO BE SURROUNDED BY THE RESOURCE."

JUST THE OTHER DAY, CHIEF PETER YASSIE OF TADOULE LAKE, MANITOBA, SAID THAT THE CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD'S SUCCESS WILL DEPEND ON COOPERATION FROM THE NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS AND DESCRIBED THIS AGREEMENT AS VITAL FOR THE WELL-BEING OF NORTHERN NATIVES.

MY DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN PLEASED TO WORK WITH ALL OF THESE PEOPLE AND THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THIS AGREEMENT TO HELP PUT THOUGHTS INTO ACTION. WE HAVE NOT BEEN IDLE SINCE DECEMBER 1980. ALTHOUGH THE FORMALIZATION OF THE BOARD HAS TAKEN SOME TIME, AN INTERIM BOARD REPRESENTING ALL OF THE JURISDICTIONS AND THE NATIVE ASSOCIATIONS HAS ALREADY MADE SIGNIFICANT EFFORTS TOWARD IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A MANAGEMENT PLAN CAN BE PUT INTO EFFECT.

WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MANY PEOPLE, WE WERE ABLE TO FUND A FILM/VIDEO PROGRAM THAT ENABLED THE KEEWATIN INUIT TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS FREELY ON WHAT UNTIL THEN HAD BEEN FOR THEM A VERY CONTENTIOUS ISSUE, FRAUGHT WITH EMOTION. THEIR VIEWS, VIA FILM, HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO INDIAN COMMUNITIES AND TO WILDLIFE MANAGERS.

IN A JOINT VENTURE WITH THE OTHER JURISDICTIONS AND THE INTERIM BOARD, WE WERE HAPPY TO ENTER INTO A FUNDING ARRANGEMENT THAT MADE POSSIBLE THE PUBLICATION OF THE CARIBOU NEWS NEWSLETTER, WHOSE DISTRIBUTION THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITIES ON THE CARIBOU RANGE AND TO INTERESTED PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAS ALREADY DONE MUCH TO BRING A CONSENSUS ON CARIBOU MANAGEMENT VERY MUCH CLOSER.

THESE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES BY A NUMBER OF DEDICATED AND HARD-WORKING PEOPLE LED TO THE DECISION TAKEN IN YELLOWKNIFE LAST OCTOBER TO ESTABLISH A JOINT MANAGEMENT BOARD ON WHICH, FOR PERHAPS THE FIRST TIME, NATIVE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE MAJORITY

PARTICIPATION. THE INTERVENING MONTHS HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED WITH PUTTING TOGETHER THE AGREEMENT WE ARE SIGNING TODAY. ITS IMPLEMENTATION WILL TRANSLATE INTO ACTION THE PRINCIPLES ENUNCIATED BY THE MINISTERS IN WINNIPEG EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO.

THE BOARD, I UNDERSTAND, IS ALREADY HARD AT WORK AND, JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, MET IN WINNIPEG TO DRAFT A PROGRAM FOR ITS FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION. THE RANGE OF SUBJECTS TOUCHED UPON AT THAT MEETING ILLUSTRATES THE SCOPE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE TASK THAT LIES AHEAD -- COMMUNITY INFORMATION NEEDS, SCHOOLS PROGRAMS, WILDLIFE RESEARCH, PREDATOR CONTROL, THE POSSIBILITY OF HARVEST LIMITATIONS AND HUNTER EDUCATION, TO CITE JUST A FEW.

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT I WISH THEM EVERY SUCCESS IN THEIR ENDEAVOURS. AT STAKE IS NOT JUST THE POSSIBLE SURVIVAL OF THE BARRENGROUND CARIBOU, ALTHOUGH THAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE. OUR EFFORTS, AND THOSE OF THE NATIVE AND GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TOGETHER WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SET THE DIRECTION FOR OTHER JOINT GOVERNMENT-USER MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS THAT WILL BE SIGNED IN THE YEARS TO COME TO PRESERVE CANADIAN WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

This speech is being delivered by

Senator Jack Austin, P.C., Q.C.,

Minister of State from British Columbia,

on behalf of the Minister of Indian

Affairs and Northern Development.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada

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NOTES FOR REMARKS

BY THE

THE HONORABLE JOHN C. MUNRO

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

THE CANADIAN CLUB

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1982, 12:30 P.M.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

IAND 126 (2-82) 7530-21-023-8418

Canada

I WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BE BACK IN EDMONTON AND SPEAK TO THE CANADIAN CLUB. THE VITALITY AND THE HOSPITALITY OF THIS CITY NEVER FAIL TO AMAZE ME, AND DELIGHT ME, AND MEMBERS OF THIS CLUB HAVE A WELL-DESERVED REPUTATION FOR CONCERN FOR CANADA. IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE.

TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT A MATTER IN WHICH YOU SHOULD HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST. I WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OIL AND GAS NORTH OF 60 AND THE ROLE WHICH I EXPECT EDMONTON AND ALBERTA CAN, AND WILL, PLAY IN PURSUING OUR NATIONAL GOALS OF ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND SECURITY OF SUPPLY. AND FINALLY, I WILL SPEAK ABOUT THE PROFITABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORGING BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS AND JOINT VENTURES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NORTHERN RESOURCES.

EDMONTON IS ALREADY WELL ESTABLISHED AS THE GATEWAY TO THE NORTH. THROUGH THIS DECADE YOU WILL HAVE NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE AND STRENGTHEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THIS DIFFICULT BUT POTENTIALLY BOUNTIFUL ECONOMIC FRONTIER. THESE OPPORTUNITIES ARE IN ADDITION TO THOSE WHICH WILL BE DEVELOPED IN ALBERTA AND OTHER REGIONS OF CANADA.

CANADA, OF COURSE, WILL CONTINUE TO DEPEND ON ALBERTA FOR SOME YEARS TO COME AS THE MAJOR SUPPLIER OF HYDROCARBON ENERGY. LET ME SAY THAT DUE TO THE ENERGY AGREEMENT BETWEEN CANADA AND ALBERTA REGARDING OIL AND GAS PRODUCED IN THIS

PROVINCE, WE CAN HAVE A HIGH DEGREE OF CONFIDENCE THAT AS CANADIANS WE'RE NOT GOING TO FREEZE IN THE DARK! I SAY, THANK GOD FOR ALBERTA!

BUT ALBERTANS ARE THE FIRST TO CAUTION ALL OF US THAT OIL IS A DEPLETING RESOURCE. IN THE DOMESTIC AND EXPORT MARKETS, MORE ALBERTA OIL IS BEING CONSUMED THAN ALBERTA IS ABLE TO REPLACE WITH NEW OIL. DESPITE THE EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY OF NEW FIELDS IN THE PROVINCE, WE WILL HAVE TO LOOK INCREASINGLY TO ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS OF VARIOUS KINDS IN OTHER PARTS OF CANADA -- OR TO IMPORTS, WITH ALL THE UNCERTAINTIES THEY ENTAIL.

WE ARE FORTUNATE THAT WE DO HAVE VIABLE OPTIONS. WE ARE FORTUNATE THAT WE DO HAVE IT WITHIN OUR POWER TO BE MASTERS OF OUR OIL DESTINY. BUT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE COMPLACENT. WE WON'T REACH THE GOAL OF ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY, WHICH MOST CANADIANS BELIEVE DESIRABLE, UNLESS WE ARE PREPARED TO SHOW THE SAME COURAGE AND DETERMINATION WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALBERTA'S CONVENTIONAL, HEAVY OIL AND GAS RESOURCES OVER THE LAST TWO OR THREE DECADES.

IN ADDITION TO MY CABINET RESPONSIBILITIES ON BEHALF OF CANADA'S NATIVE PEOPLE, I AM ALSO THE MINISTER FOR NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT. THIS MEANS THAT I HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR GUIDING THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESTINY OF ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF CANADA'S LAND MASS.

IN VIEW OF COMPETING INTERESTS IN THE NORTH, THE SENSITIVITY OF THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT, AND THE LONG LEAD TIMES WHICH NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT NECESSARILY REQUIRES, THIS IS A TREMENDOUS CHALLENGE. AS A GOVERNMENT WE MUST TAKE THE STEPS NOW THAT WILL PUT US IN A POSITION TO ACT ON ALL THE DEMANDS FAIRLY AND PROMPTLY. IN PARTICULAR WE MUST ENSURE THAT THE INTERESTS OF NORTHERNERS ARE PROTECTED, AND THAT NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF DEVELOPMENT ON THE ENVIRONMENT, ON COMMUNITIES AND ON WILDLIFE ARE AVOIDED. WE MUST ENSURE THAT NATIVE COMPREHENSIVE LAND CLAIM NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT COMPROMISED. WE MUST ENSURE THAT WE DERIVE THE MAXIMUM INDUSTRIAL BENEFIT FOR CANADA FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN RESOURCES. AND WE MUST ENSURE THAT LEGITIMATE DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH IS NOT BOUND UP IN COSTLY RED TAPE. TAKEN ALL TOGETHER, IT IS A TALL ORDER.

I WANT TO TELL YOU TODAY THAT I NEED YOUR HELP. I NEED TO CALL ON THE EXPERTISE, THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND THE SKILLS THAT HAVE ENABLED ALBERTANS TO BUILD ON THEIR RESOURCE STRENGTH AND TRANSFORM THIS REGION IN SUCH A SHORT TIME. YOU CAN BE PROUD OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, BUT THERE'S AN EQUALLY DEMANDING JOB WAITING FOR YOU IN THE NORTH.

I APPRECIATE THAT WANTING YOUR HELP AND GETTING IT ARE TWO QUITE DISTINCT MATTERS. YOU WILL BE TURNED ON, OR TURNED OFF, NOT ONLY BY THE OPPORTUNITIES THEMSELVES BUT ALSO BY THE POLICY FRAMEWORK WHICH WILL DETERMINE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF YOUR PARTICIPATION.

AS FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES, I FIND IT PRUDENT TO LET THEM SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. BUT I CAN SAY THIS MUCH. BASED ON THE EXPLORATION RESULTS SO FAR, THE PROSPECTS FOR HYDROCARBON DEVELOPMENT ARE ENCOURAGING, TO SAY THE LEAST. THOUGH MUCH MORE EXPLORATION WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE, THERE ARE CLEAR INDICATIONS THAT A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO CANADA'S RESERVES OF OIL AND GAS COULD COME FROM THE NEW FRONTIER REGIONS OF THE NORTH -- QUITE POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS 1986.

I CAN SPEAK WITH MORE ASSURANCE ABOUT THE POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR NORTHERN HYDROCARBON DEVELOPMENT. THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF PROVIDING A STABLE FRAMEWORK FOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT. THE KEY WORDS ARE "STABLE FRAMEWORK." MUCH OF THAT FRAMEWORK IS NOW IN PLACE, AND THE REMAINING PIECES WILL BE IN PLACE SHORTLY. I BELIEVE THAT ALL THOSE INVOLVED WILL FIND THE FRAMEWORK COMPATIBLE WITH THEIR NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS.

I AM HERE TODAY TO TELL YOU THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NOW ADOPTED A PLANNING STRATEGY THAT WILL ENABLE US TO MEET THE DEMANDS WE ANTICIPATE WILL BE MADE ON US THROUGH THIS DECADE WITH RESPECT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OIL AND GAS IN THE NORTH.

IN ESSENCE, WE'VE DECIDED TO ACCELERATE GOVERNMENT RESEARCH, PLANNING AND MONITORING FOR NORTHERN HYDROCARBON DEVELOPMENT IN A COMPREHENSIVE AND CONTROLLED MANNER. THE OBJECTIVE IS

TO PUT OURSELVES IN A STATE OF PREPAREDNESS TO ALLOW INITIAL PRODUCTION TO BEGIN FROM PROVEN COMMERCIAL RESERVES THROUGH DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

THERE ARE TWO REASONS FOR TAKING THIS APPROACH. FIRST, THERE'S THE NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES IN A TIMELY MANNER. SECOND, WE NEED TO ATTAIN THE BEST POSSIBLE BALANCE BETWEEN NORTHERN INTERESTS AND DEVELOPMENT INTERESTS. LET ME HASTEN TO ADD ON THIS POINT, HOWEVER, THAT NORTHERNERS ALSO WANT DEVELOPMENT. THEY WANT DEVELOPMENT PROVIDED THEY CAN PARTICIPATE IN IT AND PROVIDED IT WILL BRING THEM A FAIR SHARE OF THE BENEFITS. I'LL HAVE MORE TO SAY ABOUT THIS IN A MOMENT.

THE CONTROLLED APPROACH, THROUGH DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS, WILL FACILITATE THE INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL MEASURES THAT MAY BE NEEDED TO MITIGATE NORTHERN IMPACTS AND AT THE SAME TIME MAXIMIZE NORTHERN BENEFITS.

THE NEED FOR THE NEW PLANNING STRATEGY IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED BY THE VARIOUS INTEREST GROUPS.

NORTHERNERS, AND OTHER CANADIANS WHO HAVE A SPECIAL AWARENESS OF THE NORTH, SEE HYDROCARBON DEVELOPMENT AS A MIXED BLESSING. THEY ARE WORRIED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE TO THE FRAGILE ENVIRONMENT. THEY ARE

WORRIED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE DESTRUCTION OF COMMUNITIES AND LIFESTYLES. THEY ARE WORRIED ABOUT INTERFERENCE WITH CRITICAL WILDLIFE HABITATS. THEY FEAR THAT DEVELOPMENT WILL BRING NORTHERNERS ONLY MARGINAL OR TRANSITORY BENEFITS. AND NATIVE NORTHERNERS FEAR, THOUGH I BELIEVE LESS SO THAN PREVIOUSLY, THAT RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COULD HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON LAND CLAIM NEGOTIATIONS.

THE DEVELOPERS ALSO HAVE A LOT AT STAKE -- BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN THE CASE OF THE MAJOR BEAUFORT AND HIGH ARCTIC OIL AND GAS PROJECTS. DOME PETROLEUM, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS BEEN ACTIVELY EXPLORING IN THE BEAUFORT SINCE 1976. ESSO RESOURCES AND GULF RESOURCES HAVE ALSO MADE MAJOR FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS. TO REALIZE ON THEIR TREMENDOUS CAPITAL INVESTMENT TO DATE, ONCE A COMMERCIAL FIND IS MADE, THEY WILL COUNT ON REGULATORY APPROVALS AND CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULES BEING MAINTAINED.

SPECIFICALLY, THE MAJOR OPERATORS IN THE BEAUFORT SEA AREA MUST COUNT ON TIMELY APPROVAL OF TRANSPORTATION MODES. WHILE NO PREFERENCE HAS YET BEEN EXPRESSED, A PIPELINE SYSTEM EXTENDING 2 253 KILOMETRES THROUGH ARCTIC AND SUB-ARCTIC TERRAIN MAY COST IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF $12 BILLION. IT TAKES TREMENDOUS LEAD TIME, TEN YEARS OR MORE, TO PLAN AND FINANCE SUCH AN UNDERTAKING. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF TANKERS ARE THE PREFERRED MODE, A TIMELY DECISION IS

ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR SHIPYARD CONSTRUCTION AND SHIP DESIGN, AND TO OPTIMIZE INDUSTRIAL BENEFITS TO CANADA.

A MARINE-BASED OPERATION, DOME ESTIMATES, COULD BEGIN AS EARLY AS 1986 USING A THRESHOLD RESERVES LEVEL OF 300 MILLION TO 400 MILLION BARRELS OF OIL. FOR A PIPELINE TO BE FEASIBLE, SIMILAR THRESHOLD LEVELS MAY BE REQUIRED.

DOME HAS PROPOSED A BEAUFORT DEVELOPMENT PLAN THAT WOULD INVOLVE INITIAL PRODUCTION ESTIMATED AT 50,000 BARRELS A DAY AND THE USE OF ONE ICEBREAKING TANKER BEFORE THE END OF THIS DECADE. AT A LATER STAGE IT CONTEMPLATES A PRODUCTION RATE RISING TO 500,000 BARRELS A DAY AND THE USE OF PERHAPS 11 TANKERS, EVENTUALLY INCREASING TO 1 1/4 MILLION BARRELS AND 26 TANKERS.

WHILE ALL OF THIS IS SPECULATIVE AT THE MOMENT, IT REMAINS THAT LEAD TIME FOR A NORTHERN PROJECT FROM INITIAL EXPLORATION TO THE PRODUCTION STAGE IS AT LEAST 10 YEARS. ANY DELAY DUE TO REGULATORY PROCESSES COULD BE COSTLY. IN TERMS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S AS WELL AS THE INDUSTRY'S PRIORITIES, SUCH DELAYS WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. OUR NEW PLANNING STRATEGY IS INTENDED TO ANTICIPATE RESEARCH NEEDS AND MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS AND DEAL WITH THEM IN AN EXPEDITIOUS MANNER. WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO TELL DOME AND GULF AND ESSO WHETHER TANKER OR PIPELINE TRANSPORTATION, OR BOTH, IN A

PARTICULAR SITUATION IS A FEASIBLE MODE IN VIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND WILDLIFE FACTORS.

THE NEW PHASED APPROACH TO NORTHERN HYDROCARBON DEVELOPMENT IS TO BE BACKED BY A FIVE-YEAR RESEARCH AND PLANNING PROGRAM THAT WILL COORDINATE THE EFFORTS OF MY OWN DEPARTMENT AND THOSE OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION, FISHERIES AND OCEANS, TRANSPORT, PUBLIC WORKS, THE NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF CANADA, AND THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND THE YUKON TERRITORY.

IN ADDITION TO PLANNING THE HYDROCARBON DEVELOPMENT ITSELF, WE WILL REQUIRE SPECIAL MEASURES IN SUCH AREAS AS MANPOWER TRAINING, INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND REGIONAL AND LAND USE PLANNING.

LET ME GIVE YOU A BRIEF RUN-DOWN OF SOME OF THE INITIATIVES THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO BRING IN OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS.

. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT IS A NORTHERN ENERGY POLICY. WE EXPECT TO HAVE THIS POLICY AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. A MAJOR GOAL OF THE POLICY WILL BE TO ENSURE THAT NORTHERNERS HAVE AVAILABLE TO THEM AN ADEQUATE AND ECONOMIC SUPPLY OF THE ENERGY THAT IS PRODUCED IN THE NORTH.

• WE'RE DRAFTING AMENDMENTS TO THE ARCTIC WATERS POLLUTION PREVENTION ACT. THESE WILL BE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT LATE THIS YEAR AND WILL UPDATE THE LEGISLATION ACCORDING TO NEW TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS.

• ALSO ON THE ENVIRONMENT, WE'RE DOING A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL FRAMEWORK IN THE NORTH. IT WILL BE COMPLETED LATE THIS YEAR.

• ANOTHER PAPER, TO BE COMPLETED A YEAR FROM NOW, WILL OUTLINE A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE NORTH. THE NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF CANADA WILL HAVE THE LEAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT ONE.

• WE'RE WORKING ON AN INTEGRATED BEAUFORT SEA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. THIS IS A KEY POLICY. IT WILL REVIEW REGULATORY PROCESSES AND COORDINATING RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO BEAUFORT HYDROCARBON DEVELOPMENT. IT'LL BE COMPLETED LATE THIS YEAR.

• IN THE AREA OF RESEARCH, WE HAVE PRODUCED A DRAFT GREEN PAPER DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE LANCASTER SOUND REGION. THE FINAL GREEN PAPER WILL BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY. IT WILL PUT FORWARD ALTERNATIVES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLANNING.

. WE NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE IMPACTS OF THE BUILDING OF ARTIFICIAL ISLANDS AS DRILLING PLATFORMS ON MARINE MAMMALS. WE NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT GRAVEL AND OTHER GRANULAR-TYPE DEPOSITS IN THE ACCESSIBLE SEA BEDS. WE'RE CONDUCTING RESEARCH INTO WAYS TO MINIMIZE OIL SPILLS AND HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM SHOULD THEY EVER HAPPEN. AND WE'RE INCREASING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF ICEBERGS AND ARCTIC WATERS TO HELP US SELECT FUTURE TANKER ROUTES.

. OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT FEW WEEKS OR MONTHS, OTHER MINISTERS WILL BE ANNOUNCING VARIOUS INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF THIS STRATEGY IN THEIR OWN AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY. TAKEN TOGETHER, THEY SHOULD INDICATE THAT AS A GOVERNMENT WE'VE IDENTIFIED THE ISSUES AND WE'RE TAKING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES WITH RESPECT TO NORTHERN HYDROCARBON DEVELOPMENT VERY SERIOUSLY INDEED. THEY ALSO SUPPORT THE PHASED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT WHICH I BELIEVE IS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH INDUSTRY AND THE MAJORITY OF NORTHERN INTEREST GROUPS INCLUDING THE NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS.

OUR APPROACH IS ADMITTEDLY A CAUTIOUS AND DELIBERATE ONE, BUT LIKE ALL THE INTERESTED PARTIES WE CAN'T AFFORD TO MAKE MISTAKES. THIS APPROACH, HOWEVER, ALLOWS INCREMENTAL EXPANSION IN KEEPING WITH PERFORMANCE RECORDS AS WELL AS CHANGING MARKET CONDITIONS. IT ALSO WILL ALLOW US TO RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE TRANSPORTATION MODES BASED ON CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF ALL THE FACTORS IN EACH SITUATION. ABOVE ALL,

IT WILL ALLOW FOR DEVELOPMENT TO PROCEED AT A SPACE ACCEPTABLE TO NORTHERNERS AND MANAGEABLE IN TERMS OF THE GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED.

THESE INITIATIVES, OF COURSE, DO NOT INDICATE A BELATED INTERVENTION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN HYDROCARBON RESOURCES. AS PART OF OUR "NEED TO KNOW" POLICY, WE HAVE FOR SOME YEARS PROVIDED EXTENSIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE INDUSTRY IN ITS EXPLORATION EFFORTS. THIS SUPPORT INCLUDES DIRECT GRANTS, INVESTMENT IN PANARCTIC OIL, THE BUILDING OF INFRASTRUCTURE, SUPER-DEPLETION ALLOWANCES, AND FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND REGIONAL PLANNING.

THE INVESTMENT IN THESE EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN EXTREMELY HIGH. SUPER-DEPLETION ALLOWANCES IN AID OF NORTHERN EXPLORATION ALONE WERE WORTH ABOUT $1.8 BILLION IN TAX SAVINGS DURING THE FOUR-YEAR PERIOD ENDED IN 1980. FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S PERSPECTIVE, THIS INVESTMENT IS JUSTIFIED SINCE WE APPEAR TO BE ON THE THRESHOLD OF A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH IN HYDROCARBON DEVELOPMENT. NOT ONLY WILL WELL-FOUNDED RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ENHANCE THE ECONOMY OF THE NORTH, IT WILL ALSO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION THROUGHOUT CANADA, AND ON OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

I'D LIKE TO TURN NOW TO THE ASPECT OF THE NEW POLICY WHICH STIPULATES GIVING APPROVAL FOR PHASED HYDROCARBON DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH INITIALLY THROUGH REASONABLY-SIZED DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS. I WOULD SUGGEST TO YOU THAT THIS IS THE APPROACH BEST SUITED TO THE UNIQUE CONDITIONS OF THE NORTH AS WELL AS TO THE CONFLICTING DEMANDS OF VARIOUS INTEREST GROUPS.

LET ME GIVE YOU ONE OR TWO EXAMPLES OF THE PHASED APPROACH.

LAST YEAR ESSO RESOURCES CANADA WAS READY TO PROCEED WITH PLANS TO EXPAND ITS EXISTING OIL FIELD AT NORMAN WELLS. INTERPROVINCIAL PIPELINES, IN A COMPLEMENTARY MOVE, WANTED TO CONSTRUCT A PIPELINE FOR ESSO RESOURCES FROM NORMAN WELLS TO ZAMA LAKE, ALBERTA. BUT THE DENE NATION, WHICH IS INVOLVED WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN LAND CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS, FELT THAT OIL FIELD EXPANSION AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE PIPELINE WOULD PREJUDICE ITS POSITION IN THE LAND CLAIMS. WE THEREFORE GAVE APPROVAL SUBJECT TO A TWO-YEAR DELAY.

THE DELAY IS NOT A SEVERE BURDEN FOR THE INDUSTRY IN VIEW OF ITS OTHER ACTIVITIES. BUT IT ALLOWS EXTRA TIME FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE LAND CLAIMS PROCESS, AND EXTRA TIME FOR THE TRAINING OF NORTHERN RESIDENTS IN NEW SKILLS FOR BOTH PIPELINE AND OIL FIELD JOBS. IT ALSO GIVES NORTHERN CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS TIME TO WORK OUT JOINT VENTURES AND OTHER BUSINESS DEALS WITH ESSO RESOURCES AND IPL.

THE BEAUFORT SEA ACTIVITY PRESENTS A VARIETY OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

DOME PETROLEUM HAS PROPOSED THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO SHIPYARDS AND THE INVESTMENT OF $150 MILLION IN ICEBREAKERS AS PART OF ITS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN THE BEAUFORT. IT HAS REQUESTED SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE SHIPBUILDING PHASE, AND THIS PROPOSAL IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY CABINET. AMONG THE FACTORS WE WILL WANT TO CONSIDER ARE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF SHIPPING THROUGH ECOLOGICALLY-SENSITIVE WATERS IN THE ARCTIC CHANNELS, THE BUILT-IN FLEXIBILITY OF THE SHIPPING MODE, NORTHERN BENEFITS AND THE INDUSTRIAL BENEFITS FOR THE REST OF CANADA AND THE POTENTIAL EXPORT MARKETS FOR THE NEW TECHNOLOGY THAT WOULD RESULT FROM THE UNDERTAKING.

ESSO RESOURCES CANADA HAS TAKEN A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO TRANSPORTATION. IT HAS PROPOSED A BEAUFORT SEA DEMONSTRATION OIL PIPELINE PROJECT. THIS WOULD INITIALLY TAP ONSHORE OIL RESERVES AND INCLUDE A PIPELINE FROM THE MACKENZIE DELTA TO CONNECT WITH THE NORMAN WELLS PIPELINE TO ZAMA LAKE. I EXPECT THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PANEL ON THE BEAUFORT SEA WILL CONSIDER THESE PROPOSALS IN ITS REVIEW OF THE CONCEPT OF PRODUCTION FROM THE BEAUFORT SEA/MACKENZIE DELTA AREA. WITHOUT PREJUDGING IT IN ANY SENSE, I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SUGGEST THAT THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE

NORMAN WELLS-ZAMA LAKE PIPELINE -- SUCCESSFUL ON THE BASIS OF ALL REASONABLE CRITERIA -- WILL HAVE A BEARING ON ALL FUTURE PIPELINE PROPOSALS FOR THE NORTH.

THERE ARE OTHER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT EXAMPLES, SUCH AS THE ARCTIC PILOT PROJECT -- THE CONSORTIUM LED BY PETRO CANADA WHICH PROPOSES TO SHIP UP TO 7.6 MILLION CUBIC METRES PER DAY OF LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS IN TWO ICEBREAKING TANKERS FROM THE ARCTIC ISLANDS AND CONDUCT A $220 MILLION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

THE NEW HYDROCARBON PLANNING STRATEGY ALSO COMPLEMENTS OUR POLICY FOR INCREASED CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES IN THE CANADA LANDS.

THE CANADA LANDS ARE THE LANDS NORTH OF 60 AND IN THE OFFSHORE, WHERE WE ANTICIPATE THE BULK OF OUR FUTURE HYDROCARBON RESOURCES BEING FOUND. THE BASIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IS CONTAINED IN THE NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY AND IN CANADA OIL AND GAS ACT, WHICH WAS PROCLAIMED JUST THREE MONTHS AGO.

UNDER THIS ACT WE'VE ESTABLISHED THE GROUND RULES ON HOW EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT WILL TAKE PLACE, AND BY WHOM. WE'RE SAYING THAT CANADIANS INCLUDING NORTHERNERS -- AS INVESTORS, SUPPLIERS AND WORKERS -- MUST HAVE AN EQUITABLE

SHARE IN THE BENEFITS FLOWING FROM THESE DEVELOPMENTS. WHEREAS THE BENEFITS ARE NEGOTIABLE, WE'RE LAYING DOWN THE LAW ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.

THE POLICY HAS BEEN ATTACKED, UNFAIRLY I THINK, ON GROUNDS THAT IT WILL SCARE AWAY FOREIGN INVESTMENT. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT IT'S MORE ACCURATE TO SAY THAT THE CANADA OIL AND GAS ACT, ALONG WITH THE NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM, PROVIDES INCENTIVES FOR FOREIGN-OWNED COMPANIES AND FOREIGN INVESTORS TO DILUTE THEIR OWNERSHIP IN FAVOUR OF CANADIAN EQUITY. THIS IS QUITE A DIFFERENT PROPOSITION FROM DRIVING INVESTMENT OUT.

THE POLICY HAS ALREADY BENEFITTED CANADIANS, AND ALBERTANS IN PARTICULAR. A FEW WEEKS AGO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONCLUDED AGREEMENTS WITH ESSO RESOURCES CANADA FOR AN EXPLORATION PROGRAM WORTH ABOUT $600 MILLION IN THE MACKENZIE DELTA-BEAUFORT SEA REGION. UNDER FARM-OUT ARRANGEMENTS, SUBJECT TO RESOLVING CERTAIN ISSUES WITH RESPECT TO PETROLEUM INCENTIVE PAYMENTS, PART OF THE ESSO LIMITS WILL BE EXPLORED BY NINE CANADIAN COMPANIES WITH HOME OIL COMPANY OF CALGARY AS THE OPERATOR. IN ADDITION TO HOME OIL, THE ARRANGEMENT INCLUDES PARTICIPATION BY CANALANDS ENERGY, BRALORNE RESOURCES, OAKWOOD PETROLEUMS, BOW VALLEY INDUSTRIES, WESTCOAST PETROLEUM, 107180 CANADA LIMITED, ARGYLL RESOURCES AND MLC OIL AND GAS. I'M SURE YOU WILL

RECOGNIZE SOME FAMILIAR ALBERTA CORPORATE NAMES IN THAT LIST. THE KEY HERE IS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CANADIAN COMPANIES TO BECOME PROFICIENT OPERATORS ON THE FRONTIER PLAYS.

ESSO HAS ALSO AGREED TO TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT CANADIANS, AND PARTICULARLY NORTHERNERS, ARE GIVEN A FAIR AND COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITY IN SUPPLYING GOODS AND SERVICES FOR THE EXPLORATION PROGRAM, AND LATER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. IT WILL ENSURE THAT JOBS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO NORTHERNERS, PARTICULARLY NATIVE NORTHERNERS. IT WILL CONSULT WITH NORTHERN RESIDENTS ON COMPANY PLANS AND PROVIDE INFORMATION AT ALL STAGES OF THE PROJECT.

THIS IS THE OPERATIONAL PATTERN WE WILL REQUIRE UNDER ALL THE NEW AGREEMENTS IN THE CANADA LANDS. THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WILL CORRECT WHAT HAS BEEN AN UNSATISFACTORY LEVEL OF CANADIAN OWNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION. AT PRESENT, CANADIAN OWNERSHIP IN OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION VENTURES IS TYPICALLY UNDER 30 PER CENT. THROUGH THE KIND OF FARM-OUT PROGRAM WE HAVE INSTITUTED WITH ESSO RESOURCES, THE RATE IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO AN AVERAGE OF 50 PER CENT, EXCLUSIVE OF THE 25 PER CENT SHARE WHICH THE CROWN RESERVES IN EVERY PROJECT. THIS WILL BE A MAJOR FACTOR IN HELPING US ACHIEVE OUR GOAL OF SIGNIFICANT CANADIAN PARTICIPATION.

I WON'T GO INTO THE DETAILS, BUT A SIMILAR PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT HAS BEEN WORKED OUT BETWEEN SHELL CANADA AND A NUMBER OF CANADIAN CORPORATIONS FOR EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF GAS DEPOSITS OFF THE NOVA SCOTIA COAST.

I COULD ALSO MENTION GULF CANADA. THE POLICY FAVOURING GREATER CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY HAS CERTAINLY NOT DETERRED GULF FROM ITS INVESTMENT PLANS FOR CANADA. GULF HAS SHOWN GREAT INITIATIVE AND CONFIDENCE BY INCREASING ITS CAPITAL SPENDING BUDGET FOR 1982 BY 28 PER CENT TO $1 BILLION. THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE PROJECTED PERCENTAGE INCREASES FOR ALL FOREIGN COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE CANADIAN HYDROCARBON INDUSTRIES. GULF HAS PROJECTED TOTAL CAPITAL SPENDING IN CANADA AT $7 BILLION OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

IN REACHING AGREEMENTS WITH ESSO RESOURCES, IT'S CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY ALL PARTICIPANTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE.

ESSO WILL UNDERTAKE ENVIRONMENTAL WORK IN SUPPORT OF ITS EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES. THIS WILL INCLUDE BIO-PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS IN SUPPORT OF THE COMPANY'S APPLICATION FOR DRILLING PROGRAM APPROVALS.

I DON'T ANTICIPATE ANY DIFFICULTIES FOR OPERATORS WHO CONDUCT THEMSELVES AS GOOD CORPORATE CITIZENS, NOR DO I ANTICIPATE FRUSTRATIONS OR ECONOMIC WASTE DUE TO RED TAPE IN MEETING THE ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES.

FINALLY, LET ME SAY A WORD ABOUT THE NEW BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS THAT ARE BEING WORKED OUT BETWEEN DEVELOPERS AND THE NATIVE PEOPLE.

WHAT WE'RE WITNESSING IS A FLOWERING OF THE DETERMINATION OF THE INDIANS AND INUIT TO COME IN FROM THE COLD. THE NATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES, ESPECIALLY THE RESOURCES IN AND NEAR THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES.

A SHORT WHILE AGO, MR. GEORGES ERASMUS, THE LEADER OF THE DENE NATION, TOLD AN INTERVIEWER FOR A NATIONAL TELEVISION AUDIENCE THAT HE IS NOT AGAINST DEVELOPMENT. WHAT HE AND HIS PEOPLE ARE AGAINST, HE SAID, IS "THE ABSOLUTE TOTAL DESTRUCTION" OF THEIR SOCIETY. THE NATIVE PEOPLE WANT TO BE ABLE TO PLAN THEIR FUTURE. THEY WANT TO BE CONSULTED AND BE PART OF THE PROCESS OF CHANGE.

THE SAME KIND OF THING WAS SAID LAST YEAR BY MR. DAVID PORTER, VICE CHAIRMAN IN CHARGE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT THE COUNCIL FOR YUKON INDIANS. MR. PORTER TOLD THE ANNUAL NORTHERN RESOURCES CONFERENCE THAT YUKON INDIANS ARE IN

FAVOUR OF DEVELOPMENT THAT INVOLVES NATIVE PEOPLE AS EQUAL PARTNERS. THEY ARE DETERMINED TO BECOME EQUAL PARTNERS. WHETHER THEY ASSUME THIS ROLE IN A SPIRIT OF CONFRONTATION, OR ONE OF CO-OPERATION, HE SAID, IS PRIMARILY UP TO THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY.

PETER ITTINUAR, THE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR NUNATSIAQ, HAS CLEARLY STATED THE POSITION OF HIS COMMUNITY IN THE EASTERN ARCTIC. THE INUIT, HE SAYS, HAVE NEVER TAKEN AN UNQUALIFIED ANTI-DEVELOPMENT POSITION. THE INUIT RECOGNIZE, HE SAYS, THAT THE NATIONAL INTEREST IS IMPORTANT, BUT THE REGIONAL INTEREST IS EQUALLY VALID, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF MORAL AND ETHICAL STANDARDS.

THE CHANGES ARE TAKING PLACE. THE PARTNERSHIPS ARE BEING WORKED OUT. WE'RE SEEING THIS DEVELOP AT DOME PETROLEUM, AT ESSO RESOURCES, AT GULF PETROLEUM IN THE BEAUFORT, AND AT ESSO RESOURCES AT NORMAN WELLS. WE'RE SEEING IT HAPPEN IN THE MINING INDUSTRY ACROSS THE NORTH -- AT COMINCO'S POLARIS MINE, AT CULLATON LAKE, WHERE THE INUIT PROVIDED THE INITIAL FINANCING IN RETURN FOR AN OPTION FOR EQUITY PARTICIPATION.

WE'RE SEEING IT AT AMAX CANADA. THESE DEVELOPERS ARE OPENING UP TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES. THEY'RE TURNING TO THE NATIVE PEOPLE TO RECRUIT WORKERS. THEY'RE MAKING DEALS WITH NATIVE COMPANIES ACTING AS LOCAL SUPPLIERS. THEY'RE OFFERING EQUITY PARTICIPATION.

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY IN A DECADE OR SO. WE'VE LEARNED TO RESPECT THE VALUES AND INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE WHO INHABIT THE NORTH AND WHO MAKE THEIR LIVING THERE. WE'VE COME TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT NORTHERN RESIDENTS MUST HAVE ACCESS TO JOBS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE AS SUPPLIERS AND EQUITY PARTNERS. WE HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE FRAGILE ENVIRONMENT AND THE NEED TO PRESERVE IT FOR THE PROTECTION OF NORTHERN LIFESTYLES AND ECONOMIC PURSUITS. WE'VE COME TO REALIZE THAT IT MAKES GOOD BUSINESS SENSE TO WORK IN A SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION WITH PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE NORTH AND WHO CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE TO THE SUCCESS OF A NORTHERN VENTURE.

IT IS GOVERNMENT POLICY, AND THE POLICY IS NOW ENSHRINED IN THE LEGISLATION, THAT THE NORTH MUST BE DEVELOPED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL CANADIANS. IT MUST BE DEVELOPED PRUDENTLY AND WITH LOVING CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONCERN FOR THE WILDLIFE OF LAND AND SEA. AND IT MUST BE DEVELOPED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NORTHERN RESIDENTS WHO ARE WILLING TO BE RISK TAKERS AND ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS. THIS IS THE DIRECTION OF THE FUTURE.

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NOTES FOR REMARKS

BY THE

HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

THE WORLD ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN

JULY 21, 1982

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

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Canada

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I'M DELIGHTED TO BE WITH YOU TODAY AT THIS EXTRAORDINARY WORLD CONGRESS. I KNOW THIS IS AN EXCITING OCCASION FOR DELEGATES ATTENDING WHAT IS BILLED AS THE LARGEST EVER GATHERING OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

ON BEHALF OF THE PRIME MINISTER, I AM HAPPY TO WELCOME TO CANADA ALL DELEGATES WHO HAVE TRAVELLED HERE FROM NEAR AND FAR. I HOPE YOUR WORLD ASSEMBLY IS CROWNED WITH SUCCESS AND THAT YOU CAN STAY AWHILE TO SAMPLE THE HOSPITALITY AND FRIENDSHIP OF THE PEOPLE OF CANADA.

MAY I ALSO CONGRATULATE SOL SANDERSON AND HIS COMMITTEE FOR TAKING ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING THE OFFICIAL HOST AND PUTTING ALL THE CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS IN PLACE. THIS ASSEMBLY IS TRULY AN ORGANIZATIONAL FEAT.

YOU'VE BEEN MEETING NOW FOR THREE DAYS AND I KNOW YOU'RE EAGER TO START THE SPORTS AND RECREATION COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAMME. SO I'LL KEEP MY REMARKS AS BRIEF AS POSSIBLE.

FIRST, LET ME SAY HOW DELIGHTED I WAS THAT YOU CHOSE CANADA AS THE HOST COUNTRY FOR YOUR FIRST WORLD ASSEMBLY. WHILE WE

ARE NOT PERFECT - HUMAN FRAILTIES ABOUND HERE AS WELL - YOU KNOW I AM PERSONALLY PROUD OF CANADA'S RECORD AS A PEOPLE CONCERNED ABOUT THE GLOBAL VILLAGE.

AT HOME CANADA HAS TAKEN THE LEAD -- MATCHED BY FEW COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD -- IN ESTABLISHING A CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS DESIGNED TO ASSURE FAIRNESS AND EQUITY IN OUR DEALINGS WITH ONE ANOTHER. IN PUTTING THE CHARTER TO PRACTICE, WE WILL BE SUBJECT TO ALL THE WEAKNESSES OF HUMAN NATURE. BUT WE HAVE SPECIAL MEANS FOR UNLEASHING THE STRENGTH AND CREATIVITY OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT THAT WILL ENABLE US TO BUILD A SOCIETY BASED ON CARING AND BROTHERHOOD.

WE ALSO WANT TO LEARN FROM YOU. THIS ASSEMBLY IS A CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND I'M SURE THOSE OF YOU FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WILL HAVE USEFUL AND PERTINENT INFORMATION ON HOW YOU ARE DEALING WITH THE ISSUES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM. I HOPE YOU'LL TELL US YOUR IDEAS ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND SHARING.

YOU COME FROM NORTH AND SOUTH, EAST AND WEST. SOME OF YOU ARE FROM THE RICHEST LANDS ON EARTH; SOME FROM THE POOREST.

THIS ASSEMBLY HAS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW NEW PERSPECTIVES ON WORLD PROBLEMS, NOT TO MENTION OUR PRIORITIES IN DEALING WITH THEM.

IN RECENT YEARS, MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN AND SPOKEN OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, ITSELF A RECOGNITION THAT FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S NATIONS, THE STATUS QUO IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE. IT IS A DIALOGUE THAT IS URGENTLY NEEDED IF THE GLOBAL GAP BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS IS TO BE CLOSED.

THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE ENCOMPASSES A VAST AND COMPLEX ARRAY OF INITIATIVES. IT INVOLVES THE MODIFICATION OR REFORM OF MANY OF THE WORLD'S INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES. IT EMPHASIZES THE NEED FOR DIFFERENT KINDS OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN NATIONS. BUT ESSENTIALLY, IT FOCUSSES ON THE NOTION OF BROTHERHOOD, OF ENHANCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR RATIONAL AND DURABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE POORER NATIONS.

AND ABOVE ALL, THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE EXTENDS THE NOTION OF BROTHERHOOD BY TRYING TO CONFRONT THE PLIGHT OF ALMOST A BILLION OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE -- THE POOREST WHO LIVE ON THE BORDERLINE OF HUMAN EXISTENCE. IF BROTHERHOOD IS TO BE MORE

THAN JUST A CONVENIENT LABEL -- A PIOUS HOPE -- THEN PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO PROVIDING THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL OF HUMAN REQUIREMENTS: FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE, SANITATION, CLEAN WATER, EDUCATION. IN SHORT, ALL THOSE THINGS WHICH HUMANS HAVE A RIGHT TO EXPECT.

THE VERY FACT THAT THIS ASSEMBLY IS TAKING PLACE TODAY, IS TESTIMONY TO THE FACT THAT THE NOTION OF BROTHERHOOD IS MORE THAN JUST A CONVENIENT CATCH-PHRASE. THE ASSEMBLY IS A TANGIBLE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT PERSON-TO-PERSON, NATION-TO-NATION CONTACT AND COMMUNICATION ARE POSSIBLE AND DURABLE.

THE CANADIAN EXPERIENCE IN RECENT YEARS HAS DEMONSTRATED TO US THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS LEVEL OF CONTACT IN PROGRAMMES OF ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WHILE THE LARGEST PROPORTION OF OUR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO THE FUNDING OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES, ANOTHER LARGE -- AND GROWING -- PART IS ALSO PROVIDED TO STRENGTHENING THE ROLE PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS PLAY IN THE FIELD OF DEVELOPMENT.

LAST YEAR ALONE, THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY CONTRIBUTED ABOUT $65 MILLION TO SOME 2,500 PROJECTS

BEING SUPPORTED BY HUNDREDS OF CANADIAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS. INITIATIVES OF THIS KIND MAY WELL BE CONSIDERED AS AN OUTCOME OF THE CONTACTS AND RELATIONSHIPS WHICH ARE THE PRODUCT OF SUCH GATHERINGS AS THIS ASSEMBLY.

FOOD AID IS A MAJOR COMPONENT OF OUR COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. WE SHIP SOME 600,000 TONS OF GRAIN AND OTHER COMMODITIES EACH YEAR.

BUT ENSURING FOOD SUPPLIES THROUGH COMMERCIAL SALES AND AID PROGRAMMES IN TIME OF NEED IS ONLY A SHORT-TERM SOLUTION. NORTH AND SOUTH MUST WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE WORLD'S FOOD SUPPLY. WE BELIEVE THE BEST WAY TO DO THIS IS TO FOCUS AID ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TO FOSTER A GREATER DEGREE OF SELF-RELIANCE AMONG RECIPIENTS.

WE ARE TAKING THE SAME APPROACH TO ENERGY-RELATED PROJECTS WHICH MAKE UP ABOUT ONE-QUARTER OF OUR BILATERAL AID. FOR SOME TIME NOW, CANADA HAS MADE IT CLEAR WE WOULD ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN MOVING TOWARD ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY -- OR AT LEAST DECREASING THEIR RELIANCE ON IMPORTED OIL AND GAS.

I'VE TOUCHED ON SOME OF OUR INITIATIVES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA. EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO THIS ASSEMBLY IS THE WHOLE QUESTION OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN CANADA. MORE TO THE POINT, WHAT ARE WE DOING TO PUT OUR OWN HOUSE IN ORDER WITH RESPECT TO THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AMONG CANADA'S NATIVE PEOPLES?

OF COURSE, YOU WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO ASSESS OUR SUCCESS AT THE END OF YOUR VISIT HERE. BUT IN THE MEANTIME, I SUGGEST THAT WHILE WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO, WE HAVE TAKEN SOME POSITIVE STEPS TOWARD SHARED GOALS OVER THE PAST TWO OR THREE YEARS.

<u>WE HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, MADE PROGRESS IN ESTABLISHING POLITICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS</u>.

AN INTEGRAL PART OF A NEW CONSTITUTION, PATRIATED JUST A FEW MONTHS AGO, IS THE SECTION RECOGNIZING AND AFFIRMING EXISTING ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS OF CANADA'S NATIVE PEOPLES.

ANOTHER PART OF THE ACT DECLARES THAT A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE SHALL BE CONVENED BY THE PRIME MINISTER WITHIN

ONE YEAR. WHEN THAT CONFERENCE IS CALLED, EARLY NEXT YEAR, LEADERS REPRESENTING THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF CANADA WILL SIT AT THE TABLE NEXT TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FIRST MINISTERS OF THE CANADIAN PROVINCES.

THE CONFERENCE AGENDA INCLUDES AN IMPORTANT ITEM - THE DEFINITION OF THOSE PEOPLES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CONSTITUTION OF CANADA. AS WELL AS TAKING THIS IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS IDENTIFYING AND DEFINING ABORIGINAL RIGHTS, THE NEW CONSTITUTION ALSO CONTAINS THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS I MENTIONED EARLIER.

AS CITIZENS OF CANADA, THE NATIVE PEOPLE ARE GUARANTEED FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION; FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, BELIEF, OPINION AND EXPRESSION INCLUDING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS; FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY; AND FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION.

THEY ARE GUARANTEED THE SAME DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AS OTHER CITIZENS: THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN AN ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OR OF A LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY; AND THE RIGHT TO RUN FOR OFFICE.

THERE ARE OTHER RIGHTS. THE RIGHT TO MOVE TO ANY PART OF CANADA AND TAKE UP RESIDENCE THERE OR TAKE A JOB. THE RIGHT TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON. THE RIGHT TO EQUAL TREATMENT BEFORE AND UNDER THE LAW. THESE RIGHTS ARE TO BE ENJOYED WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION. IN PARTICULAR, WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE, NATIONAL OR ETHNIC ORIGIN, COLOUR, RELIGION, SEX, AGE OR MENTAL OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY.

I BELIEVE YOU WILL AGREE THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE NOW FIRMLY PLACED ON CANADA'S AGENDA.

WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATION OF COMPREHENSIVE NATIVE LAND CLAIMS.

IT'S OUR POLICY, AND MY PERSONAL COMMITMENT, TO ENSURE THAT SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING LAND CLAIMS BE ACCOMPLISHED FULLY AND SATISFACTORILY. THE PROCESS AND ITS CONCLUSION WILL ALLOW NATIVE PEOPLE TO LIVE IN CANADA IN THE WAY THEY DESIRE, AND WILL RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHER CANADIANS.

THE TERMS IN EACH CASE SHOULD ADDRESS ALL ASPECTS OF ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS ON A LOCAL AND REGIONAL BASIS. THESE CAN INCLUDE HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING, WHICH ARE BOTH

ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES; PERSONAL AND COMMUNAL WAYS OF EXPRESSION IN THE ARTS AND CRAFTS; WILL INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY AS WELL AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON NATIVE LANDS.

NEGOTIATORS HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO ALL OF THE COMPREHENSIVE CLAIMS, AND THOUGH PROGRESS IS SLOW, I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH GOOD WILL AND DETERMINATION, WE CAN BRING THESE CLAIMS TO A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION.

WHICH IS NOT TO SAY WE HAVE NO SUCCESS STORIES AT ALL.

JUST TWO WEEKS AGO, I WAS ABLE TO ANNOUNCE MEASURES AIMED AT ENSURING THE SUCCESS OF THE JAMES BAY AND NORTHERN QUEBEC AGREEMENT, THE ONE THAT PAVED THE WAY FOR QUEBEC TO CONSTRUCT ITS MASSIVE JAMES BAY HYDRO-ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. WITH ME AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT WERE LEADERS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES OF QUEBEC, AND THE MAKIVIK CORPORATION, REPRESENTING INUIT COMMUNITIES OF NORTHERN QUEBEC.

THE 1975 JAMES BAY AND NORTHERN QUEBEC AGREEMENT PROVIDED FOR FINANCIAL COMPENSATION AS WELL AS HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING RIGHTS, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIVE-CONTROLLED HEALTH AND EDUCATION AUTHORITIES, MEASURES RELATING TO

POLICING AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, CONTINUING FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL SOCIAL BENEFITS, AND NATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC MEASURES.

AND WHAT'S MORE, I BELIEVE THAT AGREEMENT PROVIDES US WITH A GOOD STARTING POINT FOR NEGOTIATORS FROM BOTH SIDES FOR FUTURE CLAIMS. IT PROVES THAT SUCH SETTLEMENTS CAN OCCUR, AND IT GIVES CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE.

WE ALL AGREE THAT THE ULTIMATE SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING CLAIMS WILL PROVIDE A MAJOR IMPETUS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES. WE HAVE ADVANCED $5 MILLION TO NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT CLAIMS RESEARCH, PREPARATION AND NEGOTIATION. THE BASE FOR LOANS TO NATIVE CLAIMANTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1982-83 HAS BEEN INCREASED TO $14.3 MILLION. THESE GRANTS AND LOANS ARE AN INDICATION OF THE STRENGTH OF OUR COMMITMENT.

<u>WE'VE MADE PROGRESS IN FUNDING FOR NATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</u>.

NATIVE COMMUNITIES ARE BECOMING INVOLVED IN SOME OF THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS. AT PROJECTS ON LAND CONTROLLED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, WE ARE INSISTING THAT

NORTHERNERS, AND IN PARTICULAR NATIVE NORTHERNERS, MUST HAVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOBS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO BECOME BUSINESS PARTNERS AND SUBCONTRACTORS.

THE BASIC FEATURE OF THE NEW APPROACH TO ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IS THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-RELIANCE. IN THE PAST, GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN DETERMINED BY CONSIDERATIONS OF BASIC MAINTENANCE. WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN RUNNING HARDER JUST TO KEEP UP WITH INADEQUATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STANDARDS. THIS IS NOT THE WAY NATIVE PEOPLE WANT TO GO IN THE FUTURE. IT NEVER WAS.

CABINET APPROVED $345 MILLION FOR NATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. THIS NEW MONEY WILL BECOME AVAILABLE IN INSTALLMENTS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, INCLUDING THIS FISCAL YEAR.

WHEN I CAME TO THIS PORTFOLIO IN 1980, MY DEPARTMENT PUBLISHED THE REPORT, <u>INDIAN CONDITIONS, A SURVEY</u>. THE REPORT WAS A REVIEW OF THE CONDITIONS AMONG SOME INDIAN PEOPLE, BOTH ON AND OFF RESERVE. WHILE THERE IS MUCH ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT, WE CAN POINT TO SOME POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS.

IN SASKATCHEWAN, THE SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM, FOUNDED IN 1975, HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN CREATING A LARGE NUMBER OF SELF-SUSTAINING INDIAN FARMS ON-RESERVE IN SASKATCHEWAN. DIAND FUNDING HAS TOTALLED APPROXIMATELY $15 MILLION SINCE 1975.

ALSO, THE SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN EQUITY FOUNDATION HAS THE POTENTIAL TO SUPPORT THE GROWTH OF INDIAN-OWNED BUSINESSES TO CREATE A WEALTH-PRODUCING ENVIRONMENT. I HOPE TO HAVE THE GO-AHEAD ON THIS PROPOSAL IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

IN THE ONTARIO REGION, FOR EXAMPLE, THE DEPARTMENT HAS SUPPORTED BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES TO 500 EXISTING INDIAN BUSINESSES AND TO 100 NEW ENTERPRISES. THESE EFFORTS HELPED CREATE NEW JOBS AND CONTINUE EXISTING JOBS.

IN BRITISH COLUMBIA THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR INDIANS TO INCREASE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE SALMON FISHERY THROUGH THE ACQUISITION OF A FLEET OF FISHING BOATS.

BUT AN EVEN MORE EXCITING DEVELOPMENT IS THE NEW INTEREST AMONG NATIVE COMMUNITIES TO LAUNCH EXPORT TRADING COMPANIES DEALING IN SALMON, BEEF AND LUMBER. SOME CANADIAN NATIVE GROUPS ARE STARTING TO PRODUCE TELEVISION AND FILM PACKAGES FOR WORLD-WIDE DISTRIBUTION; OTHERS ARE EMBARKING ON AN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM. I UNDERTAND THAT THE CALIFORNIA DELEGATION AT THIS ASSEMBLY WILL BE SHOWING ITS SMALL-SCALE ELECTRICAL POWER UNITS -- AN INNOVATION THAT WILL BE ATTRACTIVE IN SOME OF OUR ISOLATED COMMUNITIES.

MOVING TO ANOTHER AREA, WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS IN EDUCATION.

OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, NATIVE CONTROL OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS HAS MADE GREAT STRIDES. BAND - ADMINISTERED EDUCATION BUDGETS, INCLUDING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, HAVE GROWN TO OVER $110 MILLION FROM APPROXIMATELY $7 MILLION IN 1973-74.

THERE ARE NOW THREE INDIAN AND INUIT SCHOOL BOARDS AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL. TWO OF THEM WERE CREATED AS A RESULT OF THE JAMES BAY AGREEMENT. THERE ARE 58 CULTURAL AND EDUCATION CENTRES MANAGED BY INDIANS AND INUIT IN NINE PROVINCES AND IN BOTH TERRITORIES. ALL OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE ADVANCING THE SELF-RELIANCE OF THE NATIVE

COMMUNITIES. NATIVE COMMUNITIES ARE ALSO MAKING PROGRESS IN SCHOOL ENROLMENT. THEY ARE NOW OPERATING 157 SCHOOLS SERVING 10,000 STUDENTS. THIS ENROLMENT IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO 20,000 BY 1986. THE SAME ACTIVITY IS TAKING PLACE AT THE POST-SECONDARY LEVEL. IN 1969, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WERE 808 INDIANS ENROLLED IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES. BY THE END OF LAST YEAR, THIS HAD RISEN TO NEARLY 6,000.

WE'RE ALSO MAKING PROGRESS IN HOUSING

WHILE MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE, WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN NEARLY DOUBLING THE FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR HOUSING IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THIS IN A PERIOD OF STRICT SPENDING RESTRAINT.

IN ANOTHER AREA -- WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS IN ASSISTING NATIVE COMMUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN THEIR SYSTEM OF LOCAL BAND GOVERNMENT.

OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS, THE INDIAN LEADERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF THE FEDERATION OF SASKATCHEWAN INDIANS, HAVE BEEN PRESSING THE CASE FOR THE NEED TO ESTABLISH INDIAN GOVERNMENT AND TO TAKE CHARGE OF THEIR OWN FINANCIAL

AFFAIRS. THEY WANT TO TRANSFER TO THEIR OWN ADMINISTRATION MORE OF THE PROGRAMS NOW BEING DELIVERED BY GOVERNMENT.

I HAVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTED THE INDIAN LEADERSHIP IN THESE OBJECTIVES. BY THE END OF LAST YEAR, FOR EXAMPLE, 385 BANDS ACROSS CANADA WERE ADMINISTERING SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES ON-RESERVE. IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, 60 PER CENT OF THE REGIONAL BUDGET IS NOW BEING ADMINISTERED BY INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS. ACROSS CANADA ALMOST ALL BANDS ARE DELIVERING AT LEAST SOME PROGRAMMES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THEIR COUNCILS.

<u>IF I CAN MENTION ONE MORE AREA -- WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS IN DEALING WITH SOCIAL AND FAMILY-RELATED CONCERNS.</u>

IN COLLABORATION WITH MY COLLEAGUE, THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, I RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A NEW PROGRAM FOR FIGHTING ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES. THE PROGRAM IS BACKED BY A COMMITMENT OF $154 MILLION.

THIS WILL BE A PERMANENTLY-FUNDED PROGRAM TO SUPPORT NATIVE PEOPLE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH THESE PROBLEMS IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES. THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM WILL DEPEND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS WHICH THEY WILL

INITIATE AND ADMINISTER. NEARLY ALL INDIAN RESERVES WILL BE INVOLVED. THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE TREATMENT CENTRES WILL INCREASE FROM EIGHT UNDER THE PRESENT PROGRAM To 30, AND THE NUMBER OF IN-PATIENT BEDS WILL INCREASE FROM 140 TO 730. THE PROGRAM WILL BE OPERATED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF 800 TRAINED NATIVE THERAPISTS AND HELPERS.

IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE MANITOBA GOVERNMENT JOINED WITH THE FOUR NATIONS CONFEDERACY IN THE SIGNING OF THE CANADA-MANITOBA-INDIAN CHILD WELFARE AGREEMENT. THIS REPRESENTS A MAJOR ADVANCE IN DEVOLVING RESPONSIBILITY IN THE FIELD OF CHILD WELFARE TO THE NATIVE COMMUNITIES.

LASTLY, DURING THE PAST YEAR, I MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR BANDS TO EXEMPT THEMSELVES FROM CERTAIN DISCRIMINATORY PROVISIONS OF THE INDIAN ACT. THE LATEST FIGURES INDICATE THAT 60 BANDS HAVE REQUESTED EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN PROVISIONS. APPROXIMATELY 282 BANDS HAVE ASKED TO BE EXEMPTED FROM THE "DOUBLE-MOTHER" CLAUSE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, THESE ARE SOME OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LAST YEAR OR TWO TO WHICH ALL CANADIANS CAN POINT WITH SOME DEGREE OF SATISFACTION. THEY ARE THE RESULT OF THE

DETERMINATION ON THE PART OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH NATIVE COMMUNITIES IN A FAIR AND EQUITABLE MANNER, AND TO ASSIST THE NATIVE PEOPLES, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS COMMUNITIES, TO ACHIEVE SELF-RELIANCE. THEY ARE EQUALLY THE RESULT OF THE DETERMINATION ON THE PART OF NATIVE PEOPLE TO CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINY.

FINALLY, LET ME SUGGEST TO YOU THAT THIS WORLD ASSEMBLY ACCOMPLISHED ITS OBJECTIVE EVEN BEFORE IT STARTED. IT DID SO BY KINDLING AN INTERNATIONAL SPIRIT OF CO-OPERATION AMONG ABORIGINAL PEOPLES. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE CONTEMPLATING THE POSSIBILITY OF TRANSLATING THE SUCCESS OF THIS MEETING INTO A PERMANENT FORUM. I CONGRATULATE YOU IN THIS RESOLVE AND I EXTEND MY BEST WISHES TO ALL OF YOU IN BRINGING THIS ABOUT. HAVE A GREAT ASSEMBLY!

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NOTES FOR REMARKS
ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF
POLAR BEAR PASS NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA
BY THE
HON. JOHN C. MUNRO
MINISTER OF INDIAN & NORTHERN AFFAIRS
POND INLET, N.W.T.
JULY 30, 1982

IT IS A PARTICULARLY PLEASANT TASK THAT I HAVE TODAY IN MAKING THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SINCE IT DEALS WITH THE LONG TERM PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF AN AREA WHICH IS WIDELY RECOGNIZED AS VERY SPECIAL IN ECOLOGICAL TERMS AND HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS AN "ARCTIC OASIS".

DURING THE 1960s, INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA MADE A FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE CONCEPT OF SETTING ASIDE AREAS FOR LONG-TERM ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH. AT THAT TIME, THE MINISTER OF DIAND STATED THAT ECOLOGICAL RESERVES WOULD FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR LAND MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

THE DEPARTMENT ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGICAL PROGRAM (IBP) WHICH, THROUGH ITS TWO NORTHERN CONSERVATION PANELS, SELECTED AND DESCRIBED AREAS TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER THE PROGRAM. BY 1974, THE TWO PANELS PUT TOGETHER INFORMATION ON APPROXIMATELY 150 AREAS IN THE NORTH. THESE ARE OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE IBP ECOLOGICAL SITES.

THE FOLLOWING YEAR, ONE OF MY PREDECESSORS GAVE APPROVAL-IN-PRINCIPLE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUMBER OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES NORTH OF 60°. NOW, I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST ECOLOGICAL RESERVE IN THE NORTH, WHICH WILL BE KNOWN AS THE POLAR BEAR PASS NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA.

DEDICATING POLAR BEAR PASS AS AN ECOLOGICAL RESERVE, ASSURES IT OF THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION PRESCRIBED UNDER THE IBP PROGRAM. USING THE EXISTING LEGISLATION, IN THIS CASE THE CANADA WILDLIFE ACT, FIRMLY PLACES ECOLOGICAL VALUES AS THE PRIORITY RESOURCE.

ESTABLISHING THIS FIRST ECOLOGICAL RESERVE HAS BEEN A LENGTHY PROCESS INVOLVING INTERESTED PEOPLE, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES -- TERRITORIAL, AS WELL AS FEDERAL. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT MY DEPARTMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO THIS POLICY OF PROTECTION TO SPECIFIC IDENTIFIED AREAS AND WE INTEND TO PROCEED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NORTHERN ECOLOGICAL RESERVES.

CURRENTLY, MY OFFICIALS ARE PREPARING A DISCUSSION PAPER DEALING WITH A COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION POLICY FOR THE NWT AND THE YUKON, AS WELL AS A STRATEGY FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION. I HOPE TO CIRCULATE THE PAPER IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO ENABLE ALL THOSE INTERESTED IN THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT TO CONTRIBUTE TO ITS DEVELOPMENT.

AS WELL, WE ARE IN THE ADVANCED STAGES OF PUTTING IN PLACE OUR NORTHERN LAND USE PLANNING POLICY. REMAINING IBP ECOLOGICAL SITES WILL BE CONSIDERED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THESE TWO POLICIES. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT SUCH SITES CAN ONLY BE PROPERLY IDENTIFIED, EVALUATED AND ULTIMATELY PROTECTED WHEN VIEWED IN THE COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLANNING PROCESS.

THE TWO NORTHERN CONSERVATION PANELS SET UP DURING THE COURSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGICAL PROGRAM DID A MAGNIFICENT JOB IN PREPARING THE NECESSARY INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PROPOSED ECOLOGICAL SITES. TO MAKE THIS INFORMATION MORE WIDELY AVAILABLE, WE INTEND TO PUBLISH AN INFORMATION BOOKLET CONTAINING DETAILS OF EACH SITE AND OUTLINING INTERIM MEASURES ALREADY TAKEN TO PROTECT THEM.

IT IS OUR INTENTION TO EVALUATE THE PROPOSALS BY THE PANELS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS FOR PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS, BIRD SANCTUARIES, ECOLOGICAL RESERVES AND WILDLIFE AREAS, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SITES ETC.

TO DO THIS WORK EFFECTIVELY, I SEE THE NEED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, CONCERNED ORGANIZATIONS, NATIVE GROUPS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

WHILE DISCUSSIONS ON OUR COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION POLICY GET UNDERWAY AND AN APPROPRIATE MECHANISM FOR SCREENING POTENTIAL ECOLOGICAL RESERVES IS ESTABLISHED, WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE IBP ECOLOGICAL SITES CONTINUE TO BE FULLY PROTECTED. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE INTEGRITY OF THESE SITES WHICH ARE PROTECTED UNDER THE TERRITORIAL LAND USE REGULATIONS, IS MAINTAINED PENDING THEIR FINAL DISPOSITION.

NOTES FOR REMARKS
ON THE RELEASE OF THE
LANCASTER SOUND GREEN PAPER
BY THE
HON. JOHN C. MUNRO
MINISTER OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS
AT POND INLET, N.W.T.
JULY 30, 1982

FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE HERE IN POND INLET DURING THE SEASON WHEN NATURE IS AT ITS MOST BOUNTIFUL. I UNDERSTAND BECAUSE OF THE BUSY HUNTING AND FISHING SEASON, THIS IS NOT THE BEST TIME OF YEAR TO MEET WITH YOU TO DISCUSS YOUR CONCERNS, BUT THESE ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT AND I APPRECIATE THAT SOME OF YOU WHO ARE HERE TODAY TOOK TIME AWAY FROM BEING IN CAMP.

AS WELL, I APPRECIATE THE WAY YOUR ORGANIZATIONS AND SUPPORTERS IN OTTAWA HAVE PRESENTED ME WITH YOUR POINTS OF VIEW AND YOUR CONCERNS. WE ARE ALL AWARE THAT IT TAKES TIME AND THE CO-OPERATION OF A LOT OF PEOPLE TO RESOLVE THE MANY IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING THE NORTH IN GENERAL, AND THIS REGION IN PARTICULAR. IT IS THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO LISTEN TO THE VARIOUS POINTS OF VIEW AND MAKE DECISIONS THAT RECONCILE THEM.

THIS IS WHY IT IS DIFFICULT TO ARRIVE QUICKLY AT ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS THAT ARISE AS THE INUIT PURSUE THEIR LAND CLAIMS, AND INDUSTRY PURSUES ITS INTEREST IN OIL, GAS AND MINERALS. AT TIMES, SOME CIRCUMSTANCES FALL BEYOND GOVERNMENT'S AND INDUSTRY'S CONTROL - SUCH AS FLUCTUATING WORLD PRICES FOR THE RESOURCES WE DEVELOP, THE FOOD WE BUY AND THE OTHER PRODUCTS -- LIKE SEALSKIN -- THAT WE SELL.

THESE FACTORS AND OTHERS HAVE A BEARING ON THE LANCASTER SOUND GREEN PAPER WHICH I AM PRESENTING TO YOU AND ALL CANADIANS TODAY.

THE LANCASTER SOUND GREEN PAPER IS PART OF THE LENGTHY -- AND LEGITIMATE -- PROCESS OF ZEROING IN ON THE SALIENT FACTS. IT WILL PROVIDE THE CONTEXT FOR LONG-TERM REGIONAL PLANNING IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT BALANCED DECISIONS ABOUT THE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN LANDS AND RESOURCES.

BECAUSE IT IS THE FIRST SUCH INTENSIVE PLANNING EXERCISE, IT HAS TAKEN A LONG TIME, MUCH DELIBERATION AND CONSULTATION, EXPERIMENTATION AND RESEARCH. THE LANCASTER SOUND REGIONAL STUDY WORKING GROUP AND THE COMMITTEE WHICH DIRECTED IT, REFLECTS REPRESENTATION FROM FIVE FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AS WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF PRIVATE CONSULTANTS. IT BROUGHT TOGETHER ALL THE AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON THE LAND, SEA, BIRDS AND ANIMALS, MINERAL RESOURCES, CLIMATE AND ICE, FROM THE INUIT AND FROM SCIENTIFIC SOURCES, AS WELL AS CURRENT AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES. THE INFORMATION COLLECTED WAS ORGANIZED INTO MAPS WHICH WERE BROUGHT TO THE COMMUNITIES TO BE REVIEWED BY THOSE FAMILIAR WITH THE LAND.

THE INFORMATION GAINED WAS PUBLISHED IN A SERIES OF BACKGROUND REPORTS, A PRELIMINARY DATA ATLAS AND A DRAFT GREEN PAPER WHICH I RELEASED IN FROBISHER BAY IN 1981.

THE DRAFT GREEN PAPER PRESENTED A SUMMARY OF ALL THE SCIENTIFIC, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION, AS WELL AS CURRENT AND PROPOSED PROJECTS IN THE REGION. IT DID NOT, AS YOUR REPRESENTATIVES POINTED OUT, PRESENT ANY SPECIFIC COURSES OF ACTION THAT YOU COULD CONSIDER AND DISCUSS. IN FACT, THE PURPOSE OF THE DRAFT GREEN PAPER WAS TO STIMULATE THE PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS THAT FOLLOWED IN APRIL 1981 IN ALL FOUR COMMUNITIES OF THIS REGION, AS WELL AS IN RESOLUTE AND OTTAWA. DURING THESE WORKSHOPS, INUIT, INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT, CONSERVATIONISTS AND OTHER INTERESTED PEOPLE MET AND PUT FORWARD THEIR VIEWS ON THE FUTURE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF LANCASTER SOUND.

THIS PUBLIC REVIEW WAS CHAIRED BY PROFESSOR PETER JACOBS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL, WHOSE REPORT PEOPLE, RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT WAS RELEASED AT THE END OF MAY AND WAS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE NORTH, AS WELL AS IN SOUTHERN CANADA.

THROUGH THE PROCESS OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND THIS REPORT, MY OFFICIALS AND I HAVE SOUGHT TO CLARIFY THE ISSUES AND CONCERNS FROM ALL QUARTERS, NORTH AND SOUTH, IN PREPARATION FOR TACKLING THE KEY PLANNING DECISIONS. THESE VARIED VIEWS ARE WELL REFLECTED IN THE FINAL GREEN PAPER AND PROVIDE A GOOD BASIS FOR MOVING INTO THE PLANNING STAGE.

THE CONCEPT OF THE GREEN PAPER WAS TO PREPARE THE GROUND AND PROVIDE THE INFORMATION FOR AN INITIAL ATTEMPT AT THE KIND OF LONG-RANGE PLANNING WHICH WOULD WEIGH AND ACCOMMODATE THE SOMETIMES CONFLICTING INTERESTS OF THE INUIT AND INDUSTRY, THE REGION AND THE NATION.

THE PUBLIC REVIEW PHASE SHOWED THAT SPECIFIC OPTIONS WERE NEEDED FOR DISCUSSION. THE GREEN PAPER HAS COMPLIED WITH THIS DESIRE. THE WORKSHOPS HELD IN THE NORTH AND IN SOUTHERN CANADA ALSO REVEALED - PERHAPS SURPRISINGLY - AGREEMENT FROM ALL SIDES ON CERTAIN ISSUES:

THOUGH THEIR VIEWS OF HOW AND WHAT IT SHOULD ACCOMPLISH ARE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT, INUIT AND INDUSTRY ALIKE SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF LONG-TERM REGIONAL PLANNING FOR LANCASTER SOUND IN WHICH ALL PARTIES WOULD HAVE A STRONG VOICE. MY COLLEAGUES AND I AT BOTH THE FEDERAL AND TERRITORIAL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT SHARE THIS VIEW. FURTHERMORE, INDUSTRY AGREES WITH INUIT AND THE GOVERNMENT THAT AN EXPEDITIOUS SETTLEMENT OF THE INUIT CLAIMS IN THE NWT IS BENEFICIAL AND NECESSARY TO EVERYONE. AS WELL, BOTH INUIT AND INDUSTRY ARE TELLING THE GOVERNMENT THAT ITS NORTHERN POLICY MUST BE CLEARER AND MORE COMPREHENSIVE TO DEAL WITH THE WHOLE, RATHER THAN BITS AND PIECES. FINALLY, EVERYONE IS AGREED THAT THE ECOLOGY OF LANCASTER SOUND IS UNIQUE AND MUST BE PROTECTED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, WE AGREE THAT THIS PROTECTION

INCLUDES THE LIFESTYLE OF THE INUIT WHO STRONGLY WISH TO MAINTAIN THEIR ABILITY TO CHOOSE THE DEGREE TO WHICH THEIR WAY OF LIFE COMBINES THE TRADITIONAL AND QALLUNAAT ECONOMIES.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE OIL AND GAS RESOURCES OF THE WESTERN AND HIGH ARCTIC ARE BEING ACTIVELY EXPLORED AND ARE MOVING CLOSER TO THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING DEVELOPED. IF THESE RESOURCES ARE TO BE DEVELOPED, SOME WAY WILL EVENTUALLY HAVE TO BE FOUND OF MOVING THEM TO SOUTHERN MARKETS. YOU ARE WELL AWARE OF THE ARCTIC PILOT PROJECT AND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES HAVE PRESENTED STRONG VIEWS ABOUT IT AT THE NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD HEARINGS. ALSO PROPOSALS BEING PUBLICIZED BY OPERATORS IN THE BEAUFORT HAVE OBVIOUS RAMIFICATIONS FOR THIS REGION.

ALL THESE QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS WERE EXAMINED BY THE LANCASTER SOUND WORKING GROUP AND STEERING COMMITTEE FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC REVIEW. AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, THE PUBLIC REVIEW HAD ASKED FOR SCENARIOS WHICH RANGED FROM NO DEVELOPMENT TO FULL STEAM AHEAD. THE WORKING GROUP DREW UP SIX SCENARIOS WHICH I AM ASKING YOU, ALONG WITH INDUSTRY AND ALL CANADIANS, TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER AND PRESENT YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO ME IN THE COMING MONTHS. ASSUMING FULL AGREEMENT ON THE PRINCIPLE OF RESPECT FOR PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT, AND RECOGNIZING THE DIFFER AND CHANGING NEEDS OF BOTH NORTHERNERS AND CANADIANS GENERALLY, PLANNERS NEED TO KNOW PEOPLE'S CURRENT AND FUTURE INTERESTS.

THE TWO EXTREME SCENARIOS, AS I HAVE JUST MENTIONED ARE: NO NEW DEVELOPMENT OF ANY KIND, AND FULL-SCALE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE EXISTING REGULATORY CONTEXT. THE OTHERS ARE:

- PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT BY IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION STRATEGY BEFORE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT;
- DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE RESOURCE BASED ECONOMY;
- DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE AS A YEAR-ROUND SHIPPING LANE WITH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT LIMITED TO SHIPPING SUPPORT;
- BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE AND NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES BASED ON CAREFUL PLANNING WITH DUE REGARD TO SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.

THE PUBLIC REVIEW ENDORSED THE CONCEPT OF REGIONAL LAND USE PLANNING. MY CABINET COLLEAGUES SHORTLY AFTERWARDS ACCEPTED MY PROPOSAL FOR A LAND USE PLANNING POLICY FOR THE NORTH. OVER THE LAST YEAR, OFFICIALS OF MY DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH NORTHERNERS TO DEVELOP THIS POLICY.

The Northern land use planning is designed to resolve current and emerging land use conflicts, many of which have national, as well as regional significance. The program will involve representatives of native organizations as well as all relevant local, regional and federal government agencies with responsibilities for, or interest in, some aspects of land use planning whether national, territorial, regional or local.

Public participation is a key element in making land use planning work effectively in the North. Given the need for detailed consultations and involvement by many parities, I recognize it will take time to create a plan that will meet your needs and aspirations and as well, accomodate the national needs. I am confident that co-operation at the working level from the earliest stages will enable your representatives, my officials and other sectors to satisfactory define goals for this region.

In the meantime, I would like to assure you that any structures put in place prior to the claims settlement will be set up in such a way that they can be changed and adapted to respect the agreement that will emerge between your representatives and my negotiators.

In the land claims forum and in public reviews relating to the Arctic Pilot Project, you have voiced concerns about the impact of development throughout the Arctic and particularly about

TANKER TRAFFIC IN LANCASTER SOUND. YOU HAVE STRESSED YOUR WISH TO SETTLE LAND CLAIMS BEFORE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS ARE APPROVED. I HAVE ENCOURAGED YOU TO PROCEED WITH YOUR LAND CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS WHILE ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING EXERCISES, SUCH AS THE GREEN PAPER, ARE PROGRESSING. IT IS THROUGH THE LAND CLAIM PROCESS AND LAND USE PLANNING THAT YOUR ROLE IN LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT CAN BE CLARIFIED AND REALIZED.

FINALLY, I HAVE SAID THAT ALL CANADIANS WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE GREEN PAPER BEFORE ANY DECISIONS ARE MADE. THE WORKSHOP FORMAT IS PROBABLY THE BEST VEHICLE FOR YOUR COMMUNITIES.

IN ADDITION, THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO DISCUSS THE NATURE OF REGIONAL PLANNING IN GENERAL TERMS BEFORE GETTING DOWN TO THE SPECIFICS FOR THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF LANCASTER SOUND.

THE NORTH IS NO LONGER ISOLATED FROM WORLD AND NATIONAL EVENTS. IT IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL THAT YOU PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN PLANNING THE BEST USE OF LAND AND RESOURCES IN AND AROUND YOUR COMMUNITIES. THIS IS ONE IMPORTANT WAY IN WHICH OUR MUTUAL OBJECTIVES OF <u>BALANCED</u> AND <u>RESPONSIBLE</u> SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH MAY TAKE PLACE.

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NOTES FOR AN ADDRESS BY

THE HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO, PC, MP

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT

NOVEMBER 26, 1982

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



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I AM PLEASED TO BE BACK IN YELLOWKNIFE, AND I WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO THIS ASSEMBLY.

A SERIES OF IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE LAST YEAR, PARTICULARLY IN RECENT MONTHS, HAS CREATED NEW POLITICAL EXPECTATIONS AND MOMENTUM FOR CHANGE. I'D LIKE TO ADDRESS THESE MATTERS TODAY.

BUT FIRST LET ME BEGIN BY SAYING THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FOUR NEW POLICY THRUSTS WHICH I MADE EARLIER TODAY IN OTTAWA WAS ONE I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO MAKE HERE FIRST. HOWEVER, CIRCUMSTANCES PREVENTED ME FROM DOING SO.

THE FIRST OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS I HAVE COME HERE TO ELABORATE ON IS THE DECISION TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF DIVIDING THE NWT. IT WAS HERE IN THE NORTH THAT THE IMPETUS FOR DIVISION BEGAN. IT IS HERE THAT IT WILL TAKE SHAPE. THE MAP OF CANADA AND THE POLITICAL LIFE OF CANADA WILL EVENTUALLY REFLECT THE CHANGE IN DIRECTION NORTHERNERS HAVE CHOSEN, BUT THE IMPACT OF DIVISION WILL BE FELT MOST DIRECTLY AMONG YOUR CONSTITUENTS.

YOU HAVE MADE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN. THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA HAS LISTENED TO YOUR VIEWS, WEIGHED THE ALTERNATIVES, AND ACCEPTED THAT DIVISION IS THE WAY NORTHERNERS WANT TO GO.

WHEN AND HOW DIVISION OCCURS WILL ALSO BE UP TO NORTHERNERS. WHAT YOU DECIDE WILL BE LINKED TO THE GREAT PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE TOGETHER OVER THE LAST DECADE AND A HALF.

IN 1967, THE YEAR OF CANADA'S CENTENNIAL, THE TERRITORIAL COUNCIL WAS STILL LOCATED IN OTTAWA. ALMOST HALF OF ITS MEMBERS WERE FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVANTS. FOR THE MOST PART, THE COUNCIL CARRIED OUT ITS BUSINESS FAR FROM THE NWT. TODAY THIS ASSEMBLY IS FULLY ELECTED AND MORE THAN HALF OF ITS MEMBERS ARE NATIVE CANADIANS. YOU HAVE AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHOSE MEMBERS ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY ELECTED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL, WITH ONLY TWO APPOINTED OFFICIALS WHO LIVE AND WORK IN THE TERRITORIES. I THINK YOU WILL AGREE THIS IS REMARKABLE PROGRESS IN ONLY 15 YEARS.

ONE OF MY PREDECESSORS, THE HONOURABLE JEAN CHRETIEN, PAID TRIBUTE IN A SIMILAR MEETING HERE IN 1969 TO THE WORK OF THE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT THE COMMISSION, HEADED BY DR. A.W. CARROTHERS, WAS APPOINTED IN 1965 AT THE REQUEST OF THE TERRITORIAL COUNCIL. ITS MANDATE WAS TO ADVISE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON THE STEPS THAT WERE REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH A GREATER MEASURE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THE NWT. MANY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT WERE GIVEN IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION BY THE FEDERAL CABINET, AND IMPLEMENTED RIGHT AWAY. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS WERE IMPLEMENTED OVER THE FOLLOWING YEARS. MUCH OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE IN THE NWT WAS INSPIRED BY THE CARROTHERS REPORT.

THE POINT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IS THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN THE NWT HAVE SHARED A COMMON OBJECTIVE OVER THE LAST DECADE OR SO. WE BOTH WANT TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVOLUTION OF PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITY TO THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT. WE BOTH WANT TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE ACCOUNTABLE AND RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF NORTHERN PEOPLE.

THE DRURY COMMISSION, WHICH REPORTED IN MARCH 1980, REINFORCED THESE OBJECTIVES WITH ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DEVOLUTION OF POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY TO LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS. YOU WILL RECALL THAT MR. DRURY ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT A FORUM BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NWT TO EXAMINE AND ADVISE ON THE QUESTION OF DIVIDING THE TERRITORY INTO TWO OR MORE UNITS.

OTHER INITIATIVES HAVE ORIGINATED WITH THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. I AM THINKING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON UNITY WHICH WAS SET UP THREE YEARS AGO IN RESPONSE TO THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF CONSTITUENCIES IN THE EASTERN ARCTIC.

AN IMPORTANT CONCLUSION OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT, AS ACCEPTED LATER BY THIS ASSEMBLY, WAS THAT THE ASSEMBLY REGARDS THE PRESENT GEO-POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF THE NWT TO BE A TEMPORARY ONE. YOU CONCLUDED THAT THE STRUCTURES AND PRACTICES OF GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTH SHOULD BE

DETERMINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH -- IN OTHER WORDS BY THE INUIT, THE METIS AND THE DENE AND BY OTHERS WHO WERE BORN IN THE NORTH OR WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED A COMMITMENT TO NORTHERN LIVING. YOU WANTED TO NEGOTIATE CHANGES IN PRESENT STRUCTURES THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO NORTHERNERS. ALL OF THESE CONCLUSIONS WERE CONFIRMED THROUGH DEMOCRATIC PROCEDURES.

THE INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON UNITY AND APPROVED BY THIS ASSEMBLY DEMONSTRATE TO ME POLITICAL COURAGE. THERE'S A SAYING AROUND OTTAWA THAT STU HODGSON, WHO WAS APPOINTED COMMISSIONER IN 1967 "TOOK GOVERNMENT TO THE NORTH". MR. HODGSON AND THOSE WHO WORKED CLOSELY WITH HIM DID THEIR WORK WITH GOOD RESULTS. EQUALLY OBVIOUS, THE YOUNGER GENERATION THROUGHOUT THE NORTH IS NOW READY AND WILLING TO ASSUME EVEN GREATER RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

THE INITIATIVE TAKEN BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE DIDN'T STOP WITH THE DEMAND FOR CHANGES IN POLITICAL STRUCTURES. IT ALSO PROMPTED THE DECLARATION BY THIS ASSEMBLY OF YOUR COMMITMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO THE POLITICAL DIVISION OF THE NWT.

I BELIEVE THAT THIS DECLARATION MUST BE SEEN AS A CLEAR REFLECTION OF A FEELING OF ISOLATION ON THE PART OF CERTAIN REGIONS OF THE NORTH, AND OF A DESIRE FOR NEW POLITICAL STRUCTURES THAT WILL BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE POPULATION. THE RESULTS OF THE PLEBISCITE HELD LAST APRIL SEEM TO ME TO CONFIRM SUCH CONCLUSIONS.

THE RESULTS CLEARLY INDICATE THAT PEOPLE OF THE EASTERN ARCTIC ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE STATUS QUO. WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT MORE INUIT HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT, THE GREAT DISTANCES AND THE OBVIOUS GEOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EASTERN REGIONS AND THE WESTERN/MACKENZIE DELTA REGION ARE UNDENIABLE.

BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO DECENTRALIZE THE ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES. GOVERNMENT MUST BE CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE IT SERVES. WHETHER THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS OR BY NEW TERRITORIES IS THE SUBJECT OF ONGOING DEBATE IN THE NORTH. QUITE RIGHTLY YOU HAVE BEEN SEEKING AN INDICATION FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON HOW IT VIEWS THIS MATTER.

I AM NOW IN A POSITION TO ANNOUNCE HERE TODAY THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THE PRINCIPLE OF DIVIDING THE NWT AND IS PREPARED TO TAKE FURTHER CONCRETE STEPS ONCE SOME REASONABLE CONDITIONS ARE MET. I AM SURE YOU WILL SUPPORT THESE CONDITIONS BECAUSE THEY CONTRIBUTE TO THE KIND OF INSTITUTIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS WHICH MEMBERS OF THIS ASSEMBLY HAVE DECLARED THEMSELVES AS WANTING TO BUILD, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

THEY ARE:

FIRST, THAT THE RESIDENTS OF THE NWT REACH A CONSENSUS ON BOUNDARIES AND THE FUTURE LOCATION OF ANY NEW ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRES;

SECOND, THAT THERE BE A SETTLEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE NATIVE LAND CLAIMS;

THIRD, THAT A CONSENSUS ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS CAN BE DEVELOPED WITH RESPECT TO LOCAL, REGIONAL AND TERRITORIAL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT; AND

FOURTH, THAT THE MAJORITY OF NWT RESIDENTS CONTINUES TO SUPPORT DIVISION.

I EMPHASIZE THAT YOUR FUTURE IN THE NWT AS ONE OR TWO TERRITORIES IS YOURS TO DETERMINE. I CAN TELL YOU THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ENTIRELY SUPPORTS YOU. I UNDERSTAND YOUR ASPIRATIONS. HOW COULD I BE OTHER THAN IMPRESSED BY THE DETERMINATION OF NORTHERNERS TO ESTABLISH INSTITUTIONS THAT REFLECT NORTHERN INTERESTS, CULTURES AND CONDITIONS?

AS NORTHERNERS ARE WELL AWARE THE PLEBISCITE ITSELF WAS ONLY A BEGINNING. IT LEFT MANY QUESTIONS UNANSWERED. THESE QUESTIONS DEAL WITH THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT YOU WANT TO HAVE, NOT BOUNDARIES.

IN THIS REGARD I AM PLEASED TO CONFIRM THE SECOND ELEMENT OF THE NEW POLICY THRUST, NAMELY, THE COMMITMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO THE PRINCIPLE OF RESPONSIVE AND POLITICALLY ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT IN THE TERRITORIES.

IN VIEW OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE NWT, THE POLITICAL STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES YOU CHOOSE - WHILE THEY ADHERE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT - MAY NOT NECESSARILY CONFORM TO CLASSIC PARLIAMENTARY MODELS. THE JOB OF WORKING THIS OUT CAN ONLY BE DONE HERE IN THE NORTH.

YOU HAVE ALREADY TAKEN THE FIRST STEPS IN APPROACHING THIS TASK. NORTHERNERS HAVE ORGANIZED A CONSTITUTIONAL ALLIANCE, WHOSE MEMBERS INCLUDE THE METIS ASSOCIATION, THE DENE NATION, THE INUIT TAPIRISAT OF CANADA, THE COMMITTEE FOR ORIGINAL PEOPLE'S ENTITLEMENT, AND THIS TERRITORIAL ASSEMBLY. I WOULD HOPE THAT THE ALLIANCE, IF IT IS TO BE THE VEHICLE FOR ACHIEVING A CONSENSUS WILL ENSURE THAT ALL NORTHERN GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS WOULD HAVE AN AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS. BUT I PRESUME YOU, AS THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTHERNERS, WILL WANT TO SHAPE AND GUIDE THIS IMPORTANT PROCESS.

THE THIRD ELEMENT IN THE NEW POLICY DIRECTION FOR THE NORTH IS THE DECISION TO MOVE TO FORMULA FINANCING.

MY FOREGOING REMARKS DEMONSTRATE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESPONSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT. AS AN IMMEDIATE AND PRACTICAL EXAMPLE OF THIS COMMITMENT, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL MOVE RAPIDLY TO REPLACE CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR DETERMINING DEFICIT GRANTS TO THE NWT WITH A SYSTEM OF FORMULA FINANCING.

THIS NEW APPROACH IS IN KEEPING WITH THE STEADY PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

WHAT WILL FORMULA FINANCING MEAN TO THE NWT?

FIRST OF ALL, FORMULA FINANCING WILL ENABLE YOUR GOVERNMENT TO PLAN.

SECOND, IT WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH A PREDICTABLE CASH FLOW.

THIRD, IT WILL FREE YOU FROM THE PRESENT BUREAUCRATIC PROCESS FOR PROGRAM PLANNING AND FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY. IT WILL CONFIRM THAT PLANNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY RESTS WITH YOU, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

AND FOURTH, IT WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH AN INCENTIVE TO INCREASE YOUR OWN REVENUES. IF YOU DECIDE TO RAISE NEW REVENUES FROM SALES TAX OR SOME OTHER INSTRUMENT, YOU WILL BENEFIT 100 PER CENT. YOU WILL NOT, AS NOW, BE PENALIZED BY A CORRESPONDING REDUCTION IN YOUR ANNUAL GRANT.

THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE PRINCIPLE OF DIVISION AND OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT ARE TWO SOLID BUILDING BLOCKS TOWARD THE CREATION OF NORTHERN GOVERNMENTS THAT CAN BE FULLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THEIR ELECTORATE.

I MUST CAUTION, HOWEVER, THAT THE AGENDA FOR POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE IS NOT OPEN-ENDED. PROVINCIAL STATUS IS NOT A REALISTIC OPTION FOR THE NWT AT THIS TIME.

THE RELATIVELY SMALL POPULATION BASE; THE RELATIVE LACK OF TAXABLE INCOME; THE VAST TERRITORIES THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH A SMALL POPULATION; THE HIGH COST OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: THESE ARE FACTORS WHICH EVEN THE MOST ARDENT ADVOCATES OF PROVINCEHOOD MUST PAUSE TO CONSIDER, AND I KNOW THEY DO.

THERE IS ALSO THE MATTER OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES AND OBLIGATIONS TO PROTECT THE NATIONAL INTEREST. IN KEEPING WITH THESE RESPONSIBILITIES, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST MAINTAIN ITS OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OVER LAND AND OVER NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES IN THE NORTH.

I AM NOW BETTER EQUIPPED THAN EVER TO ENSURE THAT NORTHERNERS WILL SHARE THE BENEFITS.

IN THIS REGARD, I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE FOURTH ELEMENT OF THE NEW POLICY DIRECTION, AND THAT IS THE DECISION TO ESTABLISH AND DISTRIBUTE DISCRETIONARY REVENUES.

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, YOU AND YOUR CONSTITUENTS HAVE FREQUENTLY VOICED TO ME THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT THE COSTS THEY INCUR IN SUPPORT OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT. IT IS YOUR PERCEPTION THESE TERRITORIAL COSTS ARE EXCESSIVE IN VIEW OF THE FLOW OF BENEFITS TO THE SOUTH.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THE MERITS OF YOUR COMPLAINT AND I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT I HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO DEVELOP SOME

PROPOSALS TO HELP OFFSET THOSE COSTS, THEREBY INCREASING NET BENEFITS TO THE NORTH FROM RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT. I HAVE AN OPEN MIND ON THIS SUBJECT AND I SHALL SEEK YOUR VIEWS. CLEARLY IT WILL HAVE TO BE SOME DEVICE THAT IS OVER AND ABOVE YOUR NORMAL TRANSFER PAYMENT. PERHAPS THE CONCEPT OF A HERITAGE FUND AS DEVELOPED IN YUKON A FEW YEARS BACK COULD SERVE AS A MODEL. IN ANY EVENT, THE PURPOSE AND THE GOAL WILL BE TO REDRESS THE PERCEIVED IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE COSTS AND THE BENEFITS ATTACHED TO MAJOR RESOURCE PROJECTS.

SINCE I WAS APPOINTED MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TRAVEL EXTENSIVELY IN THE NORTH. I HAVE MET YOU IN THIS CHAMBER, IN SCHOOLS, GYMS AND TOWN HALLS. I HAVE ALSO MET SOME OF YOU IN YOUR HOMES. I HAVE COME TO APPRECIATE YOUR DESIRE TO RUN YOUR OWN AFFAIRS WITH LESS INTERFERENCE FROM OTTAWA AND FROM FEDERAL BUREAUCRATS. I BELIEVE THAT THE STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN TOGETHER IN THE LAST YEAR OR TWO, AND THE FOUR NEW POLICY THRUSTS I HAVE ANNOUNCED TODAY, WILL ENABLE YOU TO REALIZE YOUR LEGITIMATE OBJECTIVES FOR RESPONSIVE AND POLITICALLY ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT.

THE FRESH APPROACH TO POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND TO GEOGRAPHICAL UNITS WHICH YOU ARE NOW SEEKING TO DEVISE WILL REFLECT THE UNIQUENESS OF THE NORTH. IT WILL REFLECT, FIRST OF ALL, THE DISTINCTIVE CULTURAL COMMUNITIES WHICH ARE FOUND ACROSS THE NORTH. IT WILL BE SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF BOTH NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE GROUPS AND COMMUNITIES. IT

WILL RESPECT THE KIND OF SOCIETY TO WHICH CANADA ASPIRES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS. BUT THERE IS NO REASON WHY THE NEW STRUCTURES AND THE NEW INSTITUTIONS SHOULD MIRROR THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE CANADIAN SOUTH.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS IS A TURNING POINT IN THE RICH AND VIBRANT HISTORY OF CANADA'S NORTH. JUST AS YOU AND YOUR FOREFATHERS HAVE MADE THIS THE PLACE IT IS TODAY, YOU WILL DECIDE WHAT IT WILL BE TOMORROW. IN DOING SO YOU WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FULFILLMENT OF CONFEDERATION. IT IS WITH THAT SENSE OF WHAT HAS BEEN APPROPRIATE FOR THE REST OF CANADA -- WHAT HAS WORKED BEST FOR CANADIANS -- THAT I HAVE ENDORSED THE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH YOU HAVE FOUGHT SO HARD. NOW IT IS UP TO YOU TO MAKE CHOICES -- CHOICES THAT BEST MEET THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE YOU REPRESENT.

YOUR CHALLENGE IS REAL. BUT THE DETERMINATION AND SKILL YOU HAVE SHOWN PERSUADES ME YOU WILL SUCCEED. I OFFER YOU A FRIENDLY EAR AND ANY HELP I CAN PROVIDE.

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NOTES FOR AN ADDRESS BY

THE HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO, PC, MP

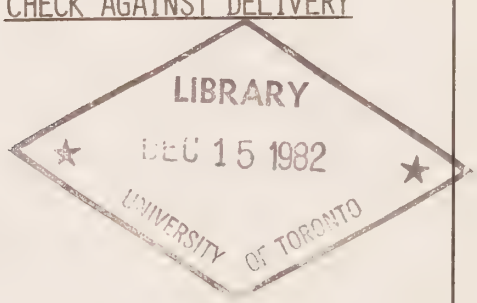
MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

WHITEHORSE, YUKON

NOVEMBER 27, 1982

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MR. SPEAKER, I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE TODAY. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO YOUR HONOUR, TO THE GOVERNMENT LEADER, TO THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND TO MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY FOR YOUR COURTESY IN PROVIDING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS YOU ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. I WANTED TO MEET WITH YOU IN PERSON SO THAT I CAN ELABORATE ON THE BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT I MADE IN OTTAWA YESTERDAY WITH RESPECT TO SOME MATTERS THAT ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO ALL YUKONERS.

I HAVE BEEN MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS. WE HAVE TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIT DOWN TOGETHER, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. I HAVE COME TO KNOW YOUR ASPIRATIONS AND I BELIEVE YOU WILL AGREE THAT I HAVE EXPRESSED GENUINE SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR ADVANCING THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF YUKON. I WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF YUKON, NOW AND THROUGH THIS DECADE, AND ABOUT THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE NATIVE POPULATION AND NON-NATIVE YUKONERS IN THAT DEVELOPMENT.

MR. SPEAKER, I HAVE COME TO TELL THIS ASSEMBLY THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO MOVE FORWARD ON SIGNIFICANT NEW POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH YUKON DESPITE THE VERY DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES WE ARE ALL EXPERIENCING.

THE RECESSION HAS TAKEN A TERRIBLE TOLL IN JOBS AND BUSINESSES AND UNDERMINED THE ECONOMIC HEALTH OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY. THE IMPACT OF THE RECESSION HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY SEVERE IN YUKON.

I AM PERSONALLY GRATIFIED BY THE EXERCISE IN RESTRAINT WHICH HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED BY THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT, AND BY YOUR DETERMINATION TO PULL TOGETHER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, THE PROVINCES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN REBUILDING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH. AT THE SAME TIME I SHARE WITH YOU CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF CANADIANS TO WORK OUR WAY OUT OF OUR CURRENT DIFFICULTIES AND REALIZE ONCE AGAIN OUR GREAT POTENTIAL.

IT IS GRATIFYING TO ME AS MINISTER TO WITNESS THE PROGRESS THAT IS BEING MADE, IN SO MANY CONCRETE WAYS, IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE INDIAN AND THE NON-INDIAN POPULATION. A HEALTHY AND DYNAMIC POLITICAL PROCESS IS ALIVE AND WELL IN YUKON. ALL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SHOULD DRAW A GREAT DEAL OF SATISFACTION FROM THE LEADERSHIP ROLE WHICH YOU ARE PLAYING IN ADVANCING THIS RELATIONSHIP.

I WAS PLEASED, FOR EXAMPLE, BY THE REAFFIRMATION BY THE YUKON GOVERNMENT OF YOUR COMMITMENT TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE COUNCIL FOR YUKON INDIANS AND THE INDIAN COMMUNITY, AND TO PURSUE THE LAND CLAIMS AS A MATTER OF FIRST PRIORITY. THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WELL-BEING OF YUKON.

CLAIMS SETTLEMENT WILL BE THE FIRST STEP IN BUILDING THE SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN INDIAN AND NON-INDIAN YUKONERS WHICH WILL BE THE FOUNDATION FOR THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF YUKON THROUGH

THIS DECADE. THE NEXT STEP, AND EQUALLY IMPORTANT, IS TO ENSURE THAT THE INDIAN POPULATION WILL HAVE FULL AND EQUAL ACCESS TO THE POLITICAL STRUCTURES OF YUKON.

IN REVIEWING FEDERAL POLICY ON NATIVE CLAIMS MORE THAN A YEAR AGO, I SAID THIS:

> I ASK FOR THE SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING OF ALL CANADIANS -- INDIVIDUALS, ASSOCIATIONS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS OF ALL KINDS. AT A TIME WHEN OUR COUNTRY IS STRUGGLING TO REDEFINE ITSELF, TO DETERMINE WHAT KIND OF FUTURE WE WANT FOR EVERYONE IN THIS LAND, WE MUST IN ALL FAIRNESS PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF NATIVE PEOPLE WITHOUT WHOSE GOOD FAITH AND SUPPORT WE CANNOT FULFILL THE PROMISE THAT IS CANADA.

IT'S ENCOURAGING TO ME TO KNOW THAT MANY SUBAGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN REACHED IN THE YUKON INDIAN LAND CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS. THESE INCLUDE THE ELDERS' AGREEMENT, THE AGREEMENT ON HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING, THE AGREEMENTS ON LAND USE PLANNING, EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS, THE AGREEMENT ON HOUSING, AND THE AGREEMENT ON COMMUNITY LAND SELECTION. I KNOW THAT YOU SHARE MY CONFIDENCE AND OPTIMISM THAT AN OVER-ALL AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE CAN BE REACHED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

I'D LIKE TO CONGRATULATE ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR AN INITIATIVE WHICH MEANS SO MUCH TO THE INDIAN COMMUNITY AND INDEED, SO MUCH TO THE FUTURE OF YUKON AND CANADA AS A WHOLE.

I HAVE A SPECIAL REASON FOR SAYING THIS. I BELIEVE IT IS VERY SIGNIFICANT FOR THE FUTURE OF YUKON THAT MEMBERS OF THIS ASSEMBLY REGARD THEMSELVES AS REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THEIR CONSTITUENCIES. I BELIEVE WE ALL KNOW SOME PLACES IN THE WORLD, NOT SO FORTUNATE AS CANADA, WHERE PEOPLE OF VARIOUS ETHNIC AND CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS HAVE NO POLITICAL RIGHTS AND ONLY LIMITED CIVIL RIGHTS. WE KNOW OF PLACES WHERE PEOPLE OF SOME ETHNIC AND CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS CANNOT CLAIM, AND DO NOT WANT TO CLAIM, TO REPRESENT ALL THEIR CONSTITUENTS. YUKON IS FORTUNATE IN BEING ABLE TO CALL ON THE STRENGTH AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALL SECTORS OF THE POLITICAL COMMUNITY AND TO WORK TOGETHER IN A DEMOCRATIC WAY. THIS IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE CANADIAN TRADITION. I'M HAPPY TO SEE THE TRADITION IS ALIVE AND WELL IN THIS ASSEMBLY.

I WOULD LIKE TO TURN NOW TO THREE NEW DEVELOPMENTS WHICH ARE GOING TO MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF YUKON. IT IS THESE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO CELEBRATE WITH YOU TODAY.

A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE ECONOMIC PROSPECTS FOR YUKON WERE BUOYANT AND THERE WAS GOOD CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM IT WOULD HAVE GIVEN ME A GREAT DEAL MORE SATISFACTION AS MINISTER TO BE ADDRESSING THIS ASSEMBLY ON MATTERS OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT OR THE DEVELOPMENT OF YUKON IN PARTICULAR.

THE SERIOUS DOWNTURN IN THE ECONOMY HAS DAMPENED THAT SATISFACTION IN THIS SENSE. IT HAS REMINDED ALL OF US THAT YUKON IS EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO VOLATILE INTERNATIONAL MARKETS. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE ECONOMY OF YUKON DEPENDS ON MINING AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES FOR ABOUT 85 PERCENT OF ITS GAINFUL ACTIVITY. CLEARLY, THIS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A SECURE FOUNDATION.

AS YOU ARE ALSO PAINFULLY AWARE, YUKON SOON WILL HAVE NO OPERATING MINES FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE GOLD RUSH DAYS AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY. THE DEPRESSED WORLD MINERAL MARKETS, THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AT THE MINES, THE EMPLOYMENT LOSSES, THE BUSINESS LOSSES, ARE MORE SEVERE THAN ANY OF US COULD HAVE CONTEMPLATED A YEAR AGO.

THE CLOSING OF UNITED KENO MINE, THE CLOSING OF CYPRUS ANVIL AND NOW THE IMMINENT CLOSING OF WHITEHORSE COPPER, ARE HAVING TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES -- NOT ONLY FOR THE MINING ORGANIZATIONS AND THE EMPLOYEES, BUT ALSO FOR COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT YUKON.

THE RECESSION HAS FOCUSSED ATTENTION ON FUNDAMENTAL WEAKNESSES. THE LACK OF AN AGRICULTURAL BASE, AND THE LACK OF DIVERSIFIED MANUFACTURING, EXPOSE THE POPULATION TO THE IMPACT OF SUDDEN SHIFTS IN MARKETS FOR MINERALS WHICH HAVE BEEN THE MAJOR SOURCE OF WEALTH IN THE TERRITORY. AS LONG AS THESE CONDITIONS PREVAIL, THE CORE POPULATION IS LIKELY TO REMAIN RELATIVELY SMALL. THE ECONOMY WILL NOT BE CAPABLE OF

GENERATING SUFFICIENT REVENUE TO FINANCE THE LEVEL OF PUBLIC SERVICES WHICH YUKONERS HAVE COME TO EXPECT.

UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, YUKON WILL CONTINUE TO DEPEND ON DIRECT AND INDIRECT EXPENDITURES BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. IN PER CAPITA TERMS, TRANSFER PAYMENTS TO YUKON ARE NEARLY THREE TIMES THE PAYMENTS TO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, AND NEARLY EIGHT TIMES THE AVERAGE FOR ALL THE PROVINCES. REGRETTABLY THIS LEVEL OF DEPENDENCY IS NOT LIKELY TO MODERATE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN HAS NOT DAMPENED YOUR ENTHUSIASM, OR MINE, FOR MOVING FORWARD WITH THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF YUKON. THIS, INDEED, IS THE FIRST OF THE THREE ELEMENTS I WANT TO ADDRESS TODAY: THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF YUKON AND NOW THE ACHIEVEMENT OF RESPONSIBLE AND POLITICALLY ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT.

WE HAVE MADE STEADY PROGRESS IN THIS REGARD OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. THIS PROGRESS INCLUDES THE GRADUAL SHIFT IN DE FACTO EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITY FROM FEDERALLY-APPOINTED OFFICIALS TO REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED BY YUKONERS. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL INCLUDES, IN ADDITION TO THE GOVERNMENT LEADER WHO IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR SEVERAL KEY PORTFOLIOS, MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, HOUSING, HEALTH, PUBLIC WORKS, JUSTICE, EDUCATION, TOURISM AND OTHER GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

THIS ASSEMBLY CONDUCTS ITS BUSINESS IN THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY TRADITION. THE ASSEMBLY, IN FACT, IS OLDER THAN ITS COUNTERPARTS IN SEVERAL OF THE PROVINCES. PARTY STRUCTURES ARE WELL ESTABLISHED. THE SYSTEM IS ROBUST. IT IS CAPABLE OF ORDERLY TRANSFER OF POWER FROM ONE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT TO ANOTHER. BY A STEADY DEVOLUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY, YUKON IS STANDING ON THE THRESHOLD OF FULLY RESPONSIBLE AND POLITICALLY ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT. THIS IS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT IN WHICH MEMBERS OF THIS ASSEMBLY AND ALL YUKONERS CAN FEEL PRIDE AND SATISFACTION.

THE PROGRESS THAT YUKON HAS MADE IN ITS EVOLUTION TOWARD RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT COME EASILY. BUT THIS IS NOT UNUSUAL.

HISTORY TELLS US THAT RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IS NOT BESTOWED. IT COMES THROUGH STRUGGLE. IT IS SOMETHING YOU ARE IMPATIENT TO ACQUIRE, SOMETHING YOU ARE WILLING TO FIGHT FOR. YOU HAVE FOUGHT FOR IT. YOU HAVE EARNED IT.

IN YUKON THE EVOLUTION HAS HAD ITS UPS AND DOWNS, REFLECTING THE SHIFTING FORTUNES OF THE ECONOMY AND THE EBB AND FLOW OF POPULATIONS. BUT THE DETERMINATION TO ACHIEVE RESPONSIBLE AND POLITICALLY ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT HAS NEVER FLAGGED.

AS MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT, I HAVE HAD MANY DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH ELECTED OFFFICIALS, WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF

VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, AND WITH OTHER YUKONERS ON THE WHOLE QUESTION OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.

YOU HAVE TOLD ME, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT YUKONERS WANT TO BE FREE FROM THE VETO POWER WHICH OTTAWA HOLDS OVER YOUR IMPORTANT DECISIONS. YOU HAVE TOLD ME YOU WANT TO RID YOURSELVES OF ANOTHER GOVERNMENT LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER WHEN YOU ARE PLANNING PROGRAMS. YOU HAVE TOLD ME IN A NUMBER OF WAYS THAT YOU WANT TO HAVE A GREATER SAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS GREAT LAND. YOU HAVE TOLD ME YOU WANT RECOGNITION OF YOUR ROLE IN THE BROADER CANADIAN COMMUNITY.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN LISTENING. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN RESPONDING POSITIVELY TO YOUR DEMANDS FOR THE DEVOLUTION OF POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITY. AS MINISTER I HAVE BEEN PARTY TO THIS DEVOLUTION. I HAVE BEEN APPLAUDING YOUR MARCH TO RESPONSIBLE AND POLITICALLY ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT.

THE DEVOLUTION TOWARD RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN YUKON HAS TAKEN PLACE IN THE SPIRIT OF NATION-BUILDING AND AS PART OF THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT ON CANADA. THIS IS SOMETHING ALL CANADIANS CAN REJOICE IN.

WE ARE NOW PREPARED, AS I ANNOUNCED IN OTTAWA YESTERDAY, TO RECOGNIZE IN LAW, RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT FOR YUKON ONCE FINAL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED IN THE COMPREHENSIVE LAND CLAIMS WITH THE COUNCIL FOR YUKON INDIANS.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, RECOGNITION IN LAW OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT? IT MEANS THAT YUKON WILL NOW HAVE SIGNIFICANT NEW LEGAL POWERS. THESE ARE LEGAL POWERS YOU HAVE BEEN ASKING FOR.

THE LEGAL CHANGES WHICH WILL OCCUR IN DUE COURSE WILL, FOR EXAMPLE, AUTHORIZE MEMBERS OF THE ELECTED EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. THEY WILL ALSO REMOVE MY POWER, AS MINISTER, TO INSTRUCT THE COMMISSIONER OF YUKON IN THE EXERCISE OF HIS DUTIES. THE COMMISSIONER WOULD THEN ASSUME A POSITION LIKE THAT OF A LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR IN A PROVINCE. THE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE OF THE COMMISSIONER WILL BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO THE YUKON GOVERNMENT DURING THE CHALLENGING TIMES AHEAD.

PROVINCIAL STATUS, HOWEVER, IS NOT A REALISTIC OBJECTIVE FOR YUKON AT THIS TIME. I KNOW THAT PROVINCIAL STATUS HAS BEEN THE OBJECTIVE FOR MANY YUKONERS FOR SOME TIME INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THIS ASSEMBLY BUT YUKONERS THEMSELVES TELL ME THAT WE MUST FACE REALITIES.

I HAVE ALREADY MENTIONED SOME OF THEM: THE LACK OF AN AGRICULTURAL BASE AND THE LACK OF A MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, BOTH OF WHICH WOULD GIVE STABILITY TO EMPLOYMENT, STABILITY TO THE ECONOMY AND STABILITY TO GOVERNMENT REVENUES; THE RELATIVELY SMALL POPULATION, A POPULATION WHICH CAN BE HIGHLY TRANSIENT DUE TO VOLATILE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS ELSEWHERE; THE HEAVY RELIANCE ON THE FEDERAL TRANSFER PAYMENTS IN THE FUNDING OF TERRITORIAL SERVICES; THE IMPORTANCE FOR THE FEDERAL

GOVERNMENT TO RETAIN OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN VIEW OF ITS NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

IF I HAVE BEEN READING ACCURATELY THE INFORMATION I HAVE BEEN RECEIVING OVER THE LAST TWO OR THREE YEARS, YOU HAVE BEEN TELLING ME THAT YOU WANT GREATER POWERS TO MAKE MORE OF THE DECISIONS AFFECTING YOUR LIVES AND YOUR FUTURE HERE IN YUKON. I KNOW THAT SOME OF YOU HAVE BEEN IDENTIFYING THESE GREATER POWERS WITH PROVINCIAL STATUS. BUT I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD GET HUNG UP ON PROVINCIAL STATUS AS SUCH. I BELIEVE THAT FOR THE TIME BEING, AND TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ECONOMIC REALITIES, FULLY RESPONSIBLE AND POLITICALLY ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT GIVES YUKON AMPLE SCOPE TO CONTROL OR INFLUENCE MATTERS OF A LOCAL NATURE.

I WOULD LIKE TO TURN NOW TO THE SECOND IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT, NAMELY, THE INTRODUCTION OF FORMULA FINANCING FOR YUKON. IN MY VIEW THIS IS GOING TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO YOUR FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FORMULA FINANCING IN ORDER TO ASSIST YUKON IN DEVELOPING PROGRESSIVE LEVELS OF PROGRAM PLANNING AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

FIRST OF ALL, IT WILL ENABLE THE YUKON GOVERNMENT TO PLAN.

SECOND, IT WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH A PREDICTABLE CASH FLOW.

THIRD, IT WILL FREE YOU FROM THE PRESENT BUREAUCRATIC PROCESS FOR PROGRAM PLANNING AND FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY. IT WILL CONFIRM THAT PLANNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY REST WITH YOU, THE GOVERNMENT OF YUKON.

AND FOURTH, IT WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH AN INCENTIVE TO INCREASE YOUR OWN REVENUES. IF YOU DECIDE TO RAISE NEW REVENUES FROM SALES TAX OR SOME OTHER INSTRUMENT, YUKON WILL BENEFIT 100 PERCENT. YOU WILL NOT, AS NOW, BE PENALIZED BY A CORRESPONDING REDUCTION IN YOUR ANNUAL TRANSFER PAYMENTS.

THE THIRD DEVELOPMENT I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK ABOUT TODAY IS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO INTRODUCE A SYSTEM OF DISCRETIONARY REVENUES. THIS RELATES TO THE WHOLE QUESTION OF ASSISTING YUKON MEET THE INCIDENTAL COSTS OF NORTHERN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.

OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS OR SO, YOU HAVE BEEN FORTHRIGHT IN EXPRESSING YOUR GRIEVANCES OVER BEING EXPOSED TO THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COSTS OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT WHILE NOT BEING ELIGIBLE FOR WHAT YOU PERCEIVE TO BE A FAIR SHARE OF THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS.

IN VIEW OF THESE CONCERNS, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATE MECHANISMS THAT WILL PROVIDE YUKON WITH A CERTAIN LEVEL OF DISCRETIONARY REVENUES. THE CABINET HAS AUTHORIZED ME, TOGETHER WITH SEVERAL OF MY COLLEAGUES, TO BRING FORWARD PROPOSALS IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. I EXPECT THAT THESE PROPOSALS WILL EXPAND ON THE CONCEPT OF THE YUKON HERITAGE FUND.

I BELIEVE YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT THIS IS A DAY FOR CELEBRATION. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN LISTENING CLOSELY TO YOUR LEGITIMATE CONCERNS FOR A GREATER VOICE AND FOR GREATER POWERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR AFFAIRS HERE IN YUKON, AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SUPPORTIVE AND RESPONSIVE. THE MEASURES I HAVE ANNOUNCED TODAY WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD CONSOLIDATING THE GAINS YOU HAVE MADE IN RECENT YEARS, AND PROVIDE YOU WITH EVEN GREATER INCENTIVES FOR FUTURE GROWTH.

FINALLY, LET ME COMMENT BRIEFLY ON ONE OR TWO POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AS I ANTICIPATE THEM.

FIRST, WITH REGARD TO ACHIEVING RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN LAW, THE PROGRESS THAT WE WILL MAKE TOGETHER IS CONTINGENT, AS I HAVE INDICATED, ON A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION TO THE LAND CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS.

THE LAND CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS, IN TURN, WILL ONLY BE CONCLUDED WHEN YUKON INDIANS FEEL THEIR RIGHTS AND CAPABILITIES ARE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED IN YUKON'S POLITICAL STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES.

THE CHALLENGE, AS I SEE IT, IS TO WORK TOWARD ACHIEVING CONSENSUS ON WHAT THESE GUARANTEES SHOULD BE. I AM PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE SETTING UP OF A TRIPARTITE PROCESS WITH THE CYI AND THE YUKON GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH THIS SUBJECT AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

I SUPPORT THE INDIAN PEOPLE IN THEIR OBJECTIVE TO BE ACCEPTED AS EQUAL PARTNERS IN THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF YUKON.

A SECOND MATTER ON THE FUTURE AGENDA IS THE WHOLE QUESTION OF LAND.

I AM AWARE OF THE DESIRE ON THE PART OF MANY YUKONERS TO HAVE A GREATER VOICE, IN THE DETERMINATION OF LAND USE. I AM CERTAINLY PREPARED TO WORK CO-OPERATIVELY WITH THE YUKON GOVERNMENT IN LAND USE PLANNING. I AM PREPARED FURTHER, SUBSEQUENT TO IMPLEMENTING A COMPREHENSIVE AND CO-OPERATIVE PLANNING PROCESS, TO RECOMMEND TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THE TRANSFER OF BLOCKS OF LAND FOR PARKS AND RECREATION, FOR AGRICULTURE, AND FOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO THE YUKON GOVERNMENT FOR ITS ADMINISTRATION.

FINALLY, I WANT TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FEDERAL AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER IN THE FUTURE. WE SHOULD CLARIFY ROLES AND ESTABLISH ACCEPTABLE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS IN AREAS OF MUTUAL CONCERN. I AM THINKING OF CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES THAT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO LAND USE PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND RENEWABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. THERE MAY BE SOME OTHER AREAS WHICH YUKON, AS WELL AS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO THAT LIST.

SINCE MY APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT NEARLY THREE YEARS AGO, I HAVE COME TO APPRECIATE THE

DEDICATION TO PUBLIC SERVICE OF MEMBERS OF THE YUKON GOVERNMENT AND THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOU IN DEVELOPING THE FUTURE POTENTIAL OF YUKON. I BELIEVE THAT THE THREE MEASURES I HAVE ANNOUNCED, AND THE OTHER PROPOSALS FOR OUR JOINT CONSIDERATION, WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD REALIZING OUR COMMON GOALS.

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NOTES

FOR REMARKS BY

THE HON. JOHN C. MUNRO, P.C., M.P.

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT



TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF

THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS

NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO
FEBRUARY 18, 1983.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

IAND 126 (2-82) 7530-21-023-8418

Canada

I WANT TO THANK THE ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS FOR INVITING ME TO ADDRESS YOUR ANNUAL MEETING.

I APPRECIATE THE CHANCE TO SPEAK TO YOU BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN READING A LOT ABOUT EACH OTHER IN THE PRESS AND WHILE OUR NEWSPAPERS ARE CRUCIAL TO ANY DEMOCRATIC DEBATE, THERE IS NO OTHER SUBSTITUTE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR EACH OTHER OUT, FACE TO FACE IN A PUBLIC FORUM. IT'S AN ANCIENT, DEMOCRATIC METHOD OF EXCHANGING IDEAS AND ARRIVING AT NEW CONCLUSIONS THAT HAS NEVER BEEN IMPROVED UPON.

THUS, THE INVITATION TO SPEAK AT YOUR ANNUAL MEETING IS NOT A RESPONSIBILITY THAT I TAKE LIGHTLY. IT IS, IN FACT, ONE OF THE CORNERSTONES OF MY JOB AS AN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE. FORTUNATELY, IT IS ALSO A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, FOR OUR DISCUSSIONS WILL MEAN NOTHING IF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US IS NOT ONLY PREPARED TO CLARIFY OUR POSITIONS BUT TO MODIFY OUR OWN THOUGHTS BASED ON WHAT WE HEAR FROM OTHERS.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, BOTH IN THE FISHERIES AND INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENTS, IS KEENLY AWARE OF

YOUR UNDERLYING APPREHENSIONS. WE ARE SENSITIVE TO YOUR REAL FEARS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF SPORT FISHING IN ONTARIO LAKES.

SPORT FISHING IS A WONDERFUL RECREATION THAT EVERYONE FROM COMPANY PRESIDENTS TO TRUCK DRIVERS ENJOYS AND AT THE SAME TIME IS OF GREAT ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO MANY CANADIANS IN THE TOURIST TRADE. HAVING SAID THAT, I'M SURE YOU'RE THINKING IF THEY'RE SO SENSITIVE, WHY HAVE WE GOT A PROBLEM? THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH SPORT FISHING IN ONTARIO FOR MANY OF THE SAME REASONS WE'VE GOT PROBLEMS WITH THE COD ON THE GRAND BANKS, SALMON IN B.C. RIVERS OR FISHING IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

IN FACT, FISHING HAS BECOME A HOT POLITICAL ISSUE AROUND THE WORLD: FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN, TO THE NORTH SEA, TO OUR OWN COASTS AND WATERWAYS. AND IT'S A PROBLEM FOR MANY OF THE SAME REASONS SUCH AS AIR AND WATER POLLUTION, DECLINING FISH STOCKS AND INCREASING DEMAND. AS FISH STOCKS DIMINISH, GOVERNMENTS FACE MOUNTING PRESSURE TO ARRIVE AT NEW EQUITABLE AGREEMENTS THAT SERVE EVERYONE'S NEEDS AND AT THE SAME TIME PROMOTE THE REVIVAL OF DECLINING STOCKS.

I THINK YOU WILL AGREE IT IS NOT AN EASY PROBLEM TO SOLVE, BECAUSE WHEN YOU'RE DEALING WITH A SCARCE RESOURCE YOU CAN'T, BY DEFINITION, GIVE EVERY GROUP EXACTLY WHAT IT WANTS WITHIN THE LIMITS REQUIRED BY CONSERVATION. YET EVERY GROUP THINKS THEIR USE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT. THAT IS THE STICKING POINT.

WHILE I AM SURE THE GREAT MAJORITY OF FISHERMAN AND HUNTERS REALIZE AND RESPECT THE PRINCIPLE THAT CONSERVATION REQUIRES THAT EVERY GROUP MUST LOSE A LITTLE SO THAT ALL MAY GAIN, IT'S THE MOST NATURAL THING IN THE WORLD TO REGARD THE OTHER GUY'S PILE AS BIGGER THAN YOURS.

NOW WHERE DO ONTARIO INDIAN FISHERMEN FIT INTO ALL THIS? YOU MUST BE THINKING - YES, THERE'S POLLUTION, AND YES, WE'VE GOT PROBLEMS LIKE OTHER COUNTRIES BUT WE'VE ALSO GOT A WILD CARD- THE INDIAN FISHERY. THOSE GUYS DON'T SEEM TO PLAY BY THE SAME RULES. WELL, LET'S LOOK AT THE RULES THAT ONTARIO INDIAN FISHERMEN PLAY OR DON'T PLAY BY. THE PLACE WE'VE GOT TO START IS WITH INDIAN TREATIES.

TREATY RIGHTS ARE NOT SOME NEBULOUS DREAM OF INDIAN PEOPLE. THEY ARE RECOGNIZED AND AFFIRMED BY THE CONSTITUTION OF THIS

COUNTRY AND BY THE COURTS. BY WAY OF TREATIES INDIANS SURRENDERED THEIR INTEREST IN LAND IN ONTARIO FOR CERTAIN SPECIFIC BENEFITS, ONE OF WHICH WAS USUALLY HARVESTING RIGHTS. IF THE NOTION OF PASSING ON FISHING RIGHTS FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER SEEMS STRANGE TO YOU, MAY I SUGGEST, IT IS NO STRANGER THAN PASSING ON DEEDS TO PIECES OF PROPERTY FROM ONE OWNER TO THE NEXT, FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT. JUST AS INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS REQUIRE OUR RESPECT SO DO TREATY RIGHTS THAT IS THE HALLMARK OF THE RULE OF REASON AND LAW. WE DON'T HAVE SOME LAWS THAT WE HONOUR AND OTHERS WE DON'T. THAT DOESN'T MEAN TREATY AGREEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN AFFECTED OVER THE YEARS; THEY HAVE AND USUALLY TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE INDIAN. LET ME READ TO YOU THE FISHING, HUNTING AND TRAPPING PROVISION SIGNED IN TREATY NUMBER 13A ON THE SECOND OF AUGUST, 1805 WITH THE MISSISSAUGA INDIAN PEOPLE:

> RESERVING TO THE MISSISSAUGA NATION
> THE SOLE RIGHT OF THE FISHERIES IN THE
> TWELVE MILE CREEK, THE SIXTEEN MILE
> CREEK, THE ETOBICOKE RIVER, TOGETHER

> WITH THE FLATS OR LOW GROUNDS ON SAID CREEKS AND RIVER, WHICH WE HAVE HERETOFORE CULTIVATED AND WHERE WE HAVE OUR CAMPS. AND ALSO THE SOLE RIGHT OF THE FISHERY IN THE RIVER CREDIT WITH ONE MILE ON EACH SIDE OF THE SAID RIVER.

I THINK YOU WILL AGREE THAT THE HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING PROVISION FOR THE LANDS CEDED BY THE MISSISSAUGAS IS QUITE CLEAR. THE INDIANS RETAINED THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT. SINCE THEN, URBAN AND INDUSTRIAL GROWTH OVER THE AREA HAVE RENDERED THESE HUNTING AND FISHING PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY MEANINGLESS BECAUSE THERE WAS NO PROVISION IN THE TREATY THAT NON-INDIANS SHOULD CONTINUE TO USE THE LANDS CEDED TO THEM IN THE SAME WAY THEY DID IN 1805.

YET, I GET LETTERS FROM CONCERNED SPORT FISHERMEN SERIOUSLY SUGGESTING THAT INDIANS SHOULD FISH IN LAKES IN THE SAME WAY AS THEY DID IN 1805.

IF THIS IS HOW WE SHOULD OBSERVE THE TREATIES THEN IT ALSO IS LOGICAL FOR US TO ROLL UP OUR HIGHWAYS, OUR LIQUOR STORES, OUR GAS STATIONS, AND GO BACK TO USING THE LAND SURRENDERED TO US IN THE SAME WAY WE DID IN 1805.

BUT, IT IS NOT LOGICAL. NOR WERE THE TREATIES INTENDED TO BE SO INFLEXIBLE EITHER WITH REGARD TO NON-INDIAN USE OF LANDS CEDED OR FISHING AND HUNTING RIGHTS LEFT WITH INDIANS. THERE IS ONE OTHER POINT, I FEEL I SHOULD MAKE TO YOU BEFORE MOVING ON TO THE ONTARIO FISHING AGREEMENT, THE DOCUMENT THAT I KNOW IS PRESENTLY ON YOUR MINDS. YES, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SIGNED TREATIES WITH MANY OF CANADA'S INDIAN BANDS USUALLY GUARANTEEING THEM HUNTING, FISHING AND TRAPPING RIGHTS. BUT SUBSEQUENTLY, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PASSED THE FISHERIES ACT, THE MIGRATORY BIRDS CONVENTION ACT AND OTHER LEGISLATION WHICH OBSCURED THOSE TREATY RIGHTS.

TO SHOW YOU HOW UNJUST THESE REGULATIONS CAN BE, CONSIDER THIS: THERE IS A CLOSED SEASON ON MIGRATORY BIRDS FROM MARCH 10 TO SEPTEMBER 1 BUT IN THE FAR NORTH MIGRATORY BIRDS DON'T ARRIVE UNTIL APRIL AND THEY LEAVE IN AUGUST. THUS, IF NORTHERN NATIVE PEOPLE RESPECT THAT LAW, THEY ARE EFFECTIVELY EXCLUDED FROM HUNTING THESE BIRDS WHICH HAVE TRADITIONALLY

BEEN AND CONTINUE TO BE AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF FOOD. THIS IS THE CONTEXT IN WHICH YOU GET INDIAN PEOPLE FEELING THAT THEIR TREATY RIGHTS HAVE NOT BEEN HONOURED. THIS IS, ALSO, ONE OF THE REASONS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS NEGOTIATING THE ONTARIO FISHING AGREEMENT BECAUSE AN INJUSTICE HAD ARISEN IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING FISHING. I EMPHASIZE AGAIN THIS IS NOT JUST MY OBSERVATION. OUR COURTS HAVE ALSO NOTED THE INCONSISTENCY ON THE PART OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

THIS IS WHAT JUDGE SISSONS HAD TO SAY IN 1964 ABOUT AN INCIDENT INVOLVING AN INDIAN CHARGED WITH SHOOTING A DUCK OUTSIDE OF THE SEASON AS PRESCRIBED IN THE MIGRATORY BIRDS CONVENTION ACT:

> IT IS I THINK CLEAR THAT THE RIGHTS GIVEN TO THE INDIANS BY THEIR TREATIES AS THEY APPLY TO MIGRATORY BIRDS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY BY THIS ACT AND ITS REGULATIONS. HOW ARE WE TO EXPLAIN THIS APPARENT BREACH OF FAITH ON THE PART OF GOVERNMENT FOR I CANNOT THINK IT CAN BE DESCRIBED IN ANY

> OTHER TERMS. THIS CANNOT BE DESCRIBED AS A MINOR OR INSIGNIFICANT CURTAILMENT OF THESE TREATY RIGHTS FOR GAME BIRDS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A MOST PLENTIFUL A MOST RELIABLE AND A READILY OBTAINABLE FOOD IN LARGE AREAS OF CANADA. I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA REALIZED THAT IN IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION THEY WERE AT THE SAME TIME BREACHING THE TREATIES THAT THEY HAD MADE WITH THE INDIANS. IT IS MUCH MORE LIKELY THAT THIS OBLIGATION UNDER THE TREATIES WAS OVERLOOKED. THE CASE OF THE LEFT HAND HAVING FORGOTTEN WHAT THE RIGHT HAND HAD DONE.

WHEN JUDGE SISSONS REFERS TO THIS NOT BEING A MINOR CURTAILMENT OF INDIAN TREATY RIGHTS, HE KNOWS WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT, NOT JUST AS A MAN OF LAW AND LETTERS BUT AS A CANADIAN WHO UNDERSTOOD THE CANADIAN SCENE BOTH INDIAN AND NON-INDIAN ALIKE . HE WAS BORN AND BROUGHT UP IN ORILLIA, ONTARIO. HE WAS AN AVID OUTDOORSMAN HIMSELF.

HE PRACTICED LAW IN THE PEACE RIVER COUNTRY, SAT ON THE ALBERTA BENCH AND FINALLY SPENT 11 YEARS AS FIRST JUSTICE FOR THE TERRITORIAL COUNCIL OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. HE UNDERSTOOD AS FEW URBAN CANADIANS DO THAT MANY NATIVE PEOPLE DEPENDED ON WILDLIFE NOT JUST FOR WEEK-END SPORT BUT FOR SUSTENANCE. POLLUTION AND DECLINING GAME STOCKS MAY BE ANNOYING FOR URBAN FISHERMEN BUT FOR INDIANS IT IS OFTEN DISASTROUS.

THIS IS WHAT JUDGE SISSONS MEANS WHEN HE REFERS TO IT AS NOT BEING A MINOR CURTAILMENT OF INDIAN RIGHTS.

AS I AM SURE ANY OF YOU WHO ARE ENGAGED IN THE OUTFITTING BUSINESS UNDERSTAND, FISHING TO MANY PEOPLE IS MORE THAN A RECREATION. IF THERE ARE SOME OF YOU WHO DOUBT THIS, LET ME REFER YOU TO A FEW FACTS ABOUT CANADIAN INDIAN CONDITIONS:

- INDIANS LIVING ON RESERVES HAVE LARGER FAMILIES THAN THE CANADIAN AVERAGE. THEY HAVE MORE DEPENDENTS;
- WILDLIFE IS OFTEN THE MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE ON INDIAN RESERVES;
- UNEMPLOYMENT ON RESERVES IS TWICE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE.

WHEN INDIANS ARE REFERRING TO AND WORRIED ABOUT THEIR TREATY HUNTING AND FISHING RIGHTS, I FIND IT USEFUL TO KEEP THIS SITUATION IN MIND. IN SUMMARY OF THE TREATY SITUATION, I WOULD SAY INDIANS HAVE HAD THREE MAJOR GRIEVANCES ABOUT THE PRESENT STATE OF THE LAW:

1) THE LOSS OR REDUCTION OF TREATY-PROTECTED RIGHTS AS A RESULT OF FEDERAL LAWS SUCH AS THE MIGRATORY BIRDS CONVENTION ACT AND THE FISHERIES ACT.

2) THE FAILURE TO RESPECT OFF-RESERVE RIGHTS IN NON-TREATY AREAS OF THE COUNTRY;

3) THE VARYING RULES GOVERNING THE TERRITORY OVER WHICH NATIVE PEOPLE WITH LEGALLY PROTECTED RIGHTS CAN HUNT.

THE ONTARIO FISHING AGREEMENT IS AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARDS RESOLVING SOME OF THESE LONGSTANDING GRIEVANCES IN ONTARIO. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO IT, NOT JUST BECAUSE IT ADDRESSES INDIAN CONCERNS BUT BECAUSE IT ALSO PROVIDES A CLEAR WAY TO MANAGE THE FISH RESOURCES IN ONTARIO.

IT PROVIDES FOR A CONSISTENT APPROACH ACROSS THE ENTIRE PROVINCE RATHER THAN THE HELTER-SKELTER OF AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS THAT WE HAVE NOW. AND IT MAKES CONSERVATION THE FIRST PRIORITY.

I CONGRATULATE MR. POPE, HIS OFFICIALS AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS ON THEIR HARD WORK IN THIS REGARD. WE HAVE HESITATED TO SIGN IMMEDIATELY NOT BECAUSE OF ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE DOCUMENT, BUT BECAUSE OF A LACK OF AGREEMENT ON THE OPERATING PRINCIPLES FOR AN INDIAN CONSERVATION OFFICER PROGRAM AND SECONDLY A LACK OF SPECIFIC DETAIL ON THE PROVINCE'S PLANS FOR CONSULTATION WITH NON-INDIAN INTERESTS. ON THE LATTER, I AM ENCOURAGED BY RECENT PRESS REPORTS THAT MR. POPE INTENDS TO ESTABLISH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES FOR THE FUTURE IDENTIFICATION OF ZONES AND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANY PROPOSALS FOR AMENDING THE ONTARIO FISHERY REGULATIONS. I AM ALSO VERY ENCOURAGED BY THE SUPPORT FOR MUCH OF THE AGREEMENT BY YOUR FEDERATION. I NOTE THAT:

YOU APPROVE OF THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY OF THE AGREEMENT, WHICH IS TO IMPROVE CONSERVATION;

YOU APPROVE OF THE INDIAN CONSERVATION OFFICER PROGRAM;

YOU APPROVE OF THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT BIOLOGIST AND AN UMPIRE TO HELP RESOLVE CASES OF CONFLICT.

THE STICKING POINTS IN THE AGREEMENT REVOLVE PRIMARILY AROUND ZONE 1 LAKES ON WHICH INDIANS WILL HAVE EXCLUSIVE FISHING RIGHTS; I UNDERSTAND THERE IS A FEAR THAT NON-INDIAN RIGHTS WILL BE JEOPARDIZED AND FINALLY THERE IS A BELIEF THAT SPORT FISHING MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ALL OTHER FORMS OF FISHING INCLUDING FOOD AND COMMERCIAL FISHING.

ON YOUR FIRST CONCERN, COULD I POINT OUT THAT THE DOCUMENT REPRESENTS AN AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE AND PROVIDES NO MORE THAN A BLUEPRINT FOR WHAT WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH VIS-A-VIS SPECIAL INDIAN FISHING PRIVILEGES. THE FIRST STEP IS SIGNING THE AGREEMENT WITH INDIAN PEOPLE TO ENSURE THAT GOVERNMENTS AGREE ON WHAT WE'LL TRY TO DO. HOW WE WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS WILL OBVIOUSLY INVOLVE BOTH INDIAN AND NON-INDIAN INTERESTS AT THE NEXT STAGES. THE FIRST STEP INVOLVES ONLY THE INDIAN PEOPLE OF ONTARIO AND THE TWO LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FULLY ACKNOWLEDGES AND SUPPORTS CONSULTATION WITH <u>NON-INDIAN USERS IN IMPLEMENTING THE</u>

AGREEMENT ONCE IT'S RATIFIED. WE ALL RECOGNIZE THAT TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT, WE REQUIRE CO-OPERATION FROM EVERYONE CONCERNED AND SENSITIVITY ON ALL SIDES.

I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY NON-INDIANS WOULD BE FEARFUL OF ANY CHANGE IN THE STATUS QUO. BUT I ASK YOU TO REMEMBER THAT, AS MR. POPE HAS MADE CLEAR THIS MORNING, NON-INDIANS WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE DESIGNATION OF ZONES AND IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMENDMENTS TO THE ONTARIO FISHERY REGULATIONS AS WELL AS THE ONTARIO FISH AND GAME ACT. THE PROVINCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CONSULTATION. I UNDERSTAND MR. POPE HAS HELD CONSULTATIONS AND I HAVE READ THAT ASSURANCES HAVE ALSO BEEN PROVIDED BY THE PREMIER.

FINALLY, IF YOU EXAMINE THE AGREEMENT EVEN IN THE MOST CURSORY WAY, IT IS CLEAR THAT ONLY ZONE 1 WATERS, WHICH ARE WATERS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO RESERVES, ARE FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF INDIAN PEOPLE. IF THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL NON-INDIAN SPORT FISHERIES ESTABLISHED ON LAKES CLOSE TO RESERVES, THE WATERS WILL BE ZONED AS 1-A WATERS TO ALLOW FOR USAGE BY NON-INDIANS. ALL OTHER ZONES VIGOROUSLY PROTECT THE ESTABLISHED, NON-INDIAN USER.

UNIMPEDED ACCESS BY ALL PERSONS THROUGH ALL BODIES OF WATER IS ALSO PROVIDED FOR.

AS MY PROVINCIAL COLLEAGUE HAS MADE CLEAR, THE HARVESTING OF FISH FOR FOOD WILL, OF COURSE, BE SUBJECT TO GOOD CONSERVATION PRACTICES. THAT IS ONE OF THE REASONS THE INDIAN CONSERVATION OFFICER PROGRAM HAS BEEN PROPOSED AS WELL AS THE INDEPENDENT BIOLOGIST. THERE ARE NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES ANTICIPATED IN THE COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS.

THE PROVINCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FISH RESOURCE AND WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH OVER THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE SUPPLY OF FISH AND THE COMPETING DEMANDS OF SPORT FISHERMEN, HARVEST FISHING AND COMMERCIAL FISHING. THIS IT HAS DONE SINCE IT WAS DELEGATED THE RESPONSIBILITY BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL, ALSO, CONTINUE IN ITS NATIONAL ROLE OF CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF CANADIAN FISHERY RESOURCES.

THE SIGNING OF THE ONTARIO FISHING AGREEMENT BY FEDERAL MINISTERS WILL PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLES OUTLINED IN THE AGREEMENT. WE ARE THEN OBLIGATED TO DO TWO SPECIFIC

THINGS - WE MUST SEEK AND OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR AN INDIAN CONSERVATION OFFICER PROGRAM; AND WE MUST HAVE THE AGREEMENT RATIFIED BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL.

RATIFICATION DOES NOT MEAN THAT ZONES ARE AUTOMATICALLY IDENTIFIED, NOR DOES IT MEAN THAT REGULATIONS ARE AMENDED. THESE ARE SEPARATE PROCESSES WHICH ARE ONLY CONTEMPLATED IN THE AGREEMENT. ONLY WHEN THESE PROCESSES ARE COMPLETE WILL AN ENFORCEABLE LEGAL BASE FOR INDIAN FISHING RIGHTS COME INTO EXISTENCE IN ONTARIO.

I THINK YOU WILL AGREE THAT WE ARE PROCEEDING CAUTIOUSLY AND ARE CONSCIOUS OF THE DIFFICULTIES THAT MISINFORMATION AND POOR COMMUNICATION CAN CAUSE. AND LET'S BE FRANK ABOUT IT: THERE HAS BEEN MISTRUST, MISINFORMATION AND MISPLACED FEAR ABOUT THIS AGREEMENT. IT IS ONE OF THOSE SITUATIONS WHERE THE OLD ROOSEVELT SAW DOES APPLY - THE ONLY THING WE HAVE TO FEAR IS FEAR ITSELF.

YOUR INTERESTS AND PRIVILEGES ARE BEING RESPECTED. I BELIEVE THAT. OTHERWISE I WOULDN'T BE HERE SPEAKING TO YOU TODAY. ON THE OTHER HAND, INDIANS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF OUR CANADIAN FEDERATION HAVE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES ALSO. THESE RIGHTS AND

PRIVILEGES COME FROM A TRADITION OF NEGOTIATION AND AGREEMENT THAT GOES BACK 100, 200, 300 YEARS. THAT TRADITION OF NEGOTIATION AND AGREEMENT CONTINUES TO THIS DAY FOR BOTH INDIANS AND NON-INDIANS. THE LATEST ROUND WILL BE THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN OTTAWA IN MARCH. I CANNOT PREDICT THE OUTCOME OF THE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE EXCEPT TO SAY THAT SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION ALWAYS DEPENDS ON MUTUAL RESPECT AND GOOD WILL. WITHOUT THAT ALL THE LEGAL CLAUSES IN THE WORLD ARE USELESS. AND THAT'S WHAT I AND MY COLLEAGUE, THE MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES, MR. ALAN POPE, ARE ASKING FROM YOU TODAY: RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF INDIAN PEOPLE; AND THE GOOD WILL TO RECOGNIZE THAT THIS ONTARIO INDIAN FISHING AGREEMENT DOES NOT UNDERMINE YOUR ESTABLISHED FISHING INTERESTS IN ONTARIO. WITH GOOD WILL IT CAN WORK TO YOUR ADVANTAGE BY IMPROVING FISHERY MANAGEMENT. AND IT CAN PROVIDE INDIANS WITH AN EQUITABLE SHARE OF A COMMON RESOURCE.

IMPROVING FISHERY MANAGEMENT. AND IT CAN PROVIDE INDIANS THEMSELVES WITH AN EQUITABLE SHARE OF A COMMON RESOURCE.

I COMMEND TO YOU THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS OF DISCUSSION. I TRUST THAT WE WILL RESOLVE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION - THE HEALTHY AND HONOURABLE USE OF OUR ONTARIO LAKES DEPENDS ON IT AND ON YOU. AGAIN THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME HERE TODAY.

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NOTES

FOR REMARKS BY

THE HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO, P.C., M.P.

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE INUIT COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL ISSUES AND
THE INUIT TAPIRISAT OF CANADA

TTAWA, ONTARIO
ARCH 14, 1983

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I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO JOIN YOU THIS MORNING AT THE OPENING OF YOUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

I HAVE A SENSE THAT THIS WEEK WE WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN A CRUCIAL EVENT FOR INUIT PEOPLE AND FOR CANADA GENERALLY.

IT IS TRUE THAT THE MAIN FOCUS OF ATTENTION DURING THE NEXT THREE DAYS IS LIKELY TO BE THE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE THAT WILL OPEN TOMORROW. BUT YOUR DISCUSSIONS TODAY AND FOR THE REST OF THIS WEEK ARE AN INTEGRAL AND ESSENTIAL PART OF THAT MEETING. IN FACT, IN MY VIEW, THE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IS BOTH THE CULMINATION OF MUCH OF THE WORK THAT YOU HAVE DONE UNTIL NOW AND THE BEGINNING OF A NEW PERIOD OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE INUIT PEOPLE OF CANADA.

YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO REGARD THIS CONFERENCE WITH A SENSE OF PRIDE AND ACCOMPLISHMENT. THE FACT THAT THE CONFERENCE IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING, THAT ABORIGINAL PEOPLE WILL PARTICIPATE WITH CANADA'S FIRST MINISTERS IN A PROCESS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUES FACING NATIVE PEOPLE IS, IN A LARGE MEASURE, DUE TO YOU AND YOUR LEADERS.

THE LIST OF THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PROCESS IS LONG AND DISTINGUISHED. IT INCLUDES SUCH PEOPLE AS CHARLIE WATT, MARK GORDON, JOHN AMAGOALIK, AS WELL AS MY PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUE, PETER ITTINUAR.

THESE PEOPLE, WITH YOUR SUPPORT AND DIRECTION, HAVE NOT ONLY MADE THE MEETING POSSIBLE BUT HAVE PROVIDED MUCH OF THE SUBSTANCE AND THE FRAMEWORK THAT WILL GUIDE AND FORM THE DISCUSSION.

IT IS NOT A COINCIDENCE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AT THE LAST MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETINGS IN PREPARATION FOR THE FMC, WAS ABLE TO PROPOSE A SLIGHTLY MODIFIED VERSION OF THREE PRINCIPLES, ADVANCED BY THE ICNI, AS THE BASIS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION. NOR IS IT SURPRISING THAT THE AGENDA THAT WILL GUIDE THE DISCUSSION STARTING TOMORROW IS YOUR AGENDA, ONE THAT WAS DEVELOPED AND PROPOSED BY YOU AND THE OTHER NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU AND YOUR LEADERS WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE SAME SUBSTANCE AND REASON TO THE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE AND THE PROCESS THAT IS LIKELY TO FOLLOW AS YOU HAVE DONE IN THE PAST.

NOR SHOULD WE FORGET WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN THE PAST. THREE YEARS AGO WE ONLY HAD THE CONCEPT OF A RENEWED CONSTITUTION. EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO WE WERE STILL STRUGGLING WITH THE NATURE OF THE NEW ACT. NOW WE HAVE CONTROL OF OUR OWN CONSTITUTION AND THAT CONSTITUTION RECOGNIZES CLEARLY AND CATEGORICALLY CANADA'S ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND THEIR RIGHTS.

THIS IS A MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT. IT IS AN ESTABLISHED FACT THAT NOW ALLOWS US TO DEAL WITH NEW AND INTRICATE QUESTIONS THAT WILL CLARIFY AND ELABORATE THESE RIGHTS.

NEITHER SHOULD WE DIMINISH WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS. IN SEPTEMBER 1982 THE ONLY THING THAT WAS CLEAR WAS THAT THERE WOULD BE A FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE SOMETIME THIS SPRING. THERE WAS NO CONCEPT OF AN AGENDA, NO VIEW OF WHAT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED. YOUR FIRST PRIORITY - AND OURS TOO - WAS TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE THAT THE PLANNED FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE WOULD ONLY BE THE FIRST STEP IN A COMPLICATED PROCESS THAT COULD REQUIRE TWO YEARS, FIVE YEARS OR EVEN LONGER.

THE CONCEPT OF AN ONGOING PROCESS IS NOW GENERALLY ACCEPTED. WE HAVE ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED OUR FIRST GOAL. THE EXACT NATURE OF THE PROCESS IS UNCERTAIN; WHETHER IT WILL BE ESTABLISHED FORMALLY IN THE CONSTITUTION IS NOT CLEAR. BUT IF THE CONFERENCE CAN AGREE TO A FORMAL PROCESS GUIDED BY A SET OF PRINCIPLES WITH A CLEAR COMMITMENT TO SOME TIME LIMITATIONS AND SPECIFIC RESULTS THEN WE WILL HAVE THE BASIS TO PROCEED POSITIVELY AND COOPERATIVELY ON MORE COMPLEX ISSUES.

IF WE CAN GO BEYOND THIS AND AGREE TO SOME SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS THEN WE WILL, INDEED, HAVE MADE GREAT STRIDES.

PERSONALLY I AM CONVINCED THAT WE ARE ABOUT TO START A PROCESS THAT WILL SECURE INUIT RIGHTS AND ESTABLISH THE BASIS FOR AN EQUITABLE AND STABLE POLITICAL FUTURE FOR INUIT IN CANADA. I AM CONVINCED OF THIS PRIMARILY BECAUSE, THANKS TO YOU AND OTHER NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS, WE HAVE A SECURE AND FLEXIBLE AGENDA THAT INCLUDES YOUR ISSUES.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

HOWEVER, IT IS BOTH DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS TO PREDICT THE OUTCOME OF CONFERENCES. THEY TAKE ON THEIR OWN PERSONALITIES. THIS ONE IS PARTICULARLY UNPREDICTABLE BUT AS I SAY, I AM OPTIMISTIC BECAUSE I ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE PARTICIPANTS ARE APPROACHING IT WITH COMMITMENT AND A READINESS TO LISTEN AND COMPROMISE.

I PARTICULARLY WANT TO ASSURE YOU OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT.

OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS MANY OF YOU MAY HAVE DISAGREED WITH SOME OF OUR PROPOSALS FOR AGENDA ITEMS AND THE SUBSTANCE OF AGENDA ITEMS. IN FACT IT IS LIKELY THAT WE HAVE MADE SOME MISTAKES DURING THE PROCESS. BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT, IF THERE HAVE BEEN ERRORS, THEY WERE HONEST ERRORS RESULTING FROM AN EARNEST DESIRE TO LEAD THE PROCESS TO A MAXIMUM ACCOMPLISHMENT IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME.

NOW I BELIEVE OUR COMMITMENT AND OUR POSITIONS ARE CLEAR.

FOR EXAMPLE AT THE LAST MINISTERS' MEETING PREPARING FOR THIS CONFERENCE, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MADE A NUMBER OF COMMITMENTS.

- FIRST WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS RELATING TO THE REPEAL OF SECTION 42 (1) (E) AND (F) THAT DEAL WITH THE EXTENSION OF EXISTING PROVINCIAL BOUNDARIES NORTHWARD AND THE FORMATION OF FUTURE PROVINCES.

- SECOND WE WILL SUPPORT AMENDMENTS THAT WILL PERMIT THE PARTICIPATION OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES IN FUTURE CHANGES TO CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS DEALING WITH THEIR RIGHTS.

- THIRD WE WILL SUPPORT AMENDMENTS THAT CLARIFY THE RIGHTS OF NATIVE WOMEN.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS ALSO OPEN TO CONSIDER OTHER AMENDMENTS IF AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED.

AT THE SAME MEETING, WE ALSO SUPPORTED THE CONCEPT OF ESTABLISHING A SET OF OBJECTIVES OR PRINCIPLES THAT WOULD GUIDE DISCUSSION IN AN ONGOING PROCESS. SPECIFICALLY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PUT FORWARD, AS AN ILLUSTRATION AND AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION, A SLIGHTLY MODIFIED VERSION OF THE ICNI PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN YOUR LETTER OF JANUARY 25, 1983 TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

THE PRINCIPLES PROPOSED WERE AS FOLLOWS:

- THAT THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLES BE RECOGNIZED AS DISTINCT CANADIAN PEOPLES DUE TO THEIR OCCUPATION OF THE LAND SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL WITH APPROPRIATE PROVISIONS TO PROTECT THEIR ABORIGINAL CULTURES, HISTORIES AND LIFE-STYLES;

- THAT THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLES BE ENTITLED TO VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE CANADIAN CONFEDERATION;

- THAT THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLES BE AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT FROM THE USE OF THEIR LANDS AND WATERS AS A BASE FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIVE COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES, INCLUDING THE PROTECTION OF THEIR TRADITIONAL LIVELIHOODS.

I ALSO KNOW THAT YOU ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ACCEPTANCE OF CLAIMS AGREEMENTS AS "MODERN TREATIES" AND THEIR RECOGNITION IN THE CONSTITUTION. YOU KNOW THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FEELS THAT THE CURRENT RECOGNITION OF ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS IN THE CONSTITUTION GIVES YOU ADEQUATE PROTECTION ON THIS ISSUE. NONETHELESS IF YOU ARE STILL IN DOUBT, WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS HOW THIS COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE CONSTITUTION IF NECESSARY BOTH AT THE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE AND IN THE ONGOING PROCESS.

ON THE ISSUE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS LONG HELD THE VIEW THAT SOME FORM OF SELF-GOVERNMENT IS ESSENTIAL FOR NATIVE PEOPLE. AT THE LAST MEETING OF MINISTERS PRIOR TO THE FMC THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROPOSED A CLEAR PRINCIPLE ON THIS SUBJECT TO GUIDE DISCUSSIONS IN THE ONGOING PROCESS.

YOU ALREADY KNOW OUR COMMITMENT TO AN ONGOING PROCESS. I BELIEVE THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS HAVE RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR A FORMAL CONTINUING PROCESS. IT IS CLEAR AND NOT DEBATABLE THAT NATIVE ISSUES ARE COMPLEX AND THAT THEY ARE VITAL TO THE FUTURE OF CANADA AND ALL CANADIANS.

HOW AN ONGOING PROCESS WILL OPERATE, WHAT PRINCIPLES AND IMPERATIVES WILL DIRECT IT, AND HOW IT WILL BE FORMALIZED HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY INDICATED THAT IT IS PREPARED TO ENTRENCH THE ONGOING PROCESS IN THE CONSTITUTION, IN EFFECT REPLACING THE EXISTING SECTION 37(2). SECTION 37(2), OF COURSE,IS THE BASIS FOR THE CONFERENCE STARTING TOMORROW. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT A SET OF PRINCIPLES SUCH AS A MODIFIED VERSION OF THOSE PROPOSED BY ICNI,SHOULD GUIDE THE ONGOING PROCESS WHICH COULD LAST TWO TO FIVE YEARS AND INVOLVE A NUMBER OF FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCES.

IN FACT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS FLEXIBLE ON THIS ISSUE WITH CERTAIN LIMITATIONS:

- FIRST, WE BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT THERE MUST BE AN ONGOING PROCESS AND THAT THIS PROCESS MUST INCLUDE A NUMBER OF FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCES TO CONFIRM RESULTS, AGREE TO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND CLARIFY ISSUES.

- SECOND, WE FEEL THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME PRINCIPLES THAT WILL INFORM AND GUIDE THE PROCESS FROM THE OUTSET.

- THIRD, THE PARTICIPANTS SHOULD FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THE PROCESS COMMITS THOSE INVOLVED TO REACHING CONCLUSIONS IN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO ACCEPT AN ONGOING PROCESS, EVEN ONE THAT IS NOT ENTRENCHED, AS LONG AS IT MEETS THESE CRITERIA.

SUMMARY

WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE, OF COURSE, DEPENDS IN LARGE MEASURE ON THE MUTUAL RESPECT THAT THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE FOR ONE ANOTHER AND ON THE SENSITIVITY THAT WE HAVE FOR ONE ANOTHER'S CONCERNS.

I KNOW THAT INUIT LEADERS HAVE THE RESPECT OF MY COLLEAGUES. THIS IS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE SINCERITY AND INTEGRITY THAT INUIT LEADERS HAVE SHOWN THROUGHOUT DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS DURING THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS.

I AM ALSO IMPRESSED BY YOUR LEADERS' SENSITIVITY TO IMPLICATIONS OF NATIVE ISSUES FOR OTHER CANADIANS. I BELIEVE THAT INUIT LEADERS UNDERSTAND THAT CANADA IS A PLURALIST DEMOCRACY. AS SUCH IT CAN ENCOMPASS MANY IDENTITIES AS LONG AS WE MAINTAIN HEALTHY PROCESSES TO RECONCILE COMPETING INTERESTS.

INUIT LEADERS ALSO KNOW THAT SOLUTIONS TO THE ISSUES WE ARE DEALING WITH NOW WILL WORK BEST IF THEY ARE ACCEPTABLE TO CANADIANS GENERALLY. YOUR LEADERS, NO DOUBT, SHARE THE SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE HAVE TO MAKE THE OUTCOME ACCEPTABLE.

FOR INUIT PEOPLE, OF COURSE, THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS IS ONLY ONE OF A NUMBER NOW UNDERWAY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE PRINCIPLES I HAVE JUST MENTIONED WILL HAVE A BEARING ON THE NEGOTIATION OF COMPREHENSIVE CLAIMS. THESE ARE NOT ISOLATED PROCESSES. WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE NEXT TWO DAYS CAN STRENGTHEN THE CLAIMS NEGOTIATION PROCESS. I BELIEVE THAT OUR EXPERIENCE IN JAMES BAY AND NORTHERN QUEBEC HAS DEMONSTRATED THE IMPORTANCE OF CLAIMS AGREEMENTS.

OF COURSE, WE BOTH KNOW THAT THERE HAVE BEEN AND THERE WILL BE DIFFICULTIES AND PITFALLS IN THE CLAIMS NEGOTIATION PROCESS. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I AM WORKING HARD TO ELIMINATE OUR CURRENT PROBLEMS, AND I AM PREPARED TO WORK EQUALLY HARD TO OVERCOME WHATEVER PROBLEMS DEVELOP IN THE FUTURE. I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT AS MINISTER I WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE CLAIMS NEGOTIATION THE HIGHEST PRIORITY.

IN ANOTHER PROCESS YOU ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND DIVISION OF THE NORTH. THESE DISCUSSIONS CAN BEGIN TO GIVE SHAPE AND SUBSTANCE TO CONCEPTS AND PRINCIPLES OF SELF-GOVERNMENT WITHIN OUR CONFEDERATION. THIS IS PARTICULARLY SO IN THE EASTERN ARCTIC. YOU KNOW FROM MY ANNOUNCEMENT LAST NOVEMBER THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THE PRINCIPLE OF DIVISION PARTICULARLY LINKED TO THE OUTCOME OF CLAIMS NEGOTIATION. YOU ARE NOW SEEKING, WITH OTHER NORTHERN GROUPS, A CONSENSUS ON THE NATURE OF DIVISION IN THE NORTH. I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS SOME CONTINUED, TANGIBLE SUPPORT FOR THIS PROCESS.

THE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IS INTERRELATED TO ALL THESE PROCESSES. I BELIEVE WE HAVE DONE EVERYTHING WE CAN TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS.

IT IS NATURAL, HOWEVER, THAT WE SHOULD FEEL SOME ANXIETY FOR ITS SUCCESS. BUT IT SHOULD BE A HEALTHY CONCERN -- I SUPPOSE IT IS LIKE WHAT A HUNTER FEELS NEAR THE END OF A LONG HUNT. BUT AS HUNTERS KNOW, THE END OF A HUNT IS THE BEGINNING OF OTHER THINGS.

SO IT IS WITH THE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE; IT MAY BE THE END OF ONE PROCESS BUT I BELIEVE IT WILL BE THE SUCCESSFUL BEGINNING OF A PRODUCTIVE PERIOD FOR BOTH INUIT PEOPLE AND ALL CANADIANS.

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STATEMENT FOR TABLING

BY

THE HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO, P.C., M.P.

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 7, 1983

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDIAN

AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS OTTAWA, ONTARIO



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MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I KNOW THAT SOME OF YOU ARE LESS PATIENT THAN OTHERS WITH LONG, FORMAL STATEMENTS. BUT THESE OPPORTUNITIES WE SHARE TOGETHER ARE NECESSARILY INFREQUENT; SO I FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT, BECAUSE WE MEET LIKE THIS ONLY OCCASIONALLY, TO REVIEW BRIEFLY WITH YOU INITIATIVES TAKEN BY MY DEPARTMENT WHILE I HAVE BEEN MINISTER, STEPS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN WITH THE SUPPORT OF PARLIAMENTARIANS.

AS POLITICIANS EACH OF US HAS TO STRIVE TO STAY IN TOUCH ... WITH COLLEAGUES, WITH THE FLOW OF EVENTS AND WITH THE PEOPLE. IN ORDER TO DO THAT YOU HAVE TO CHECK YOURSELF FROM TIME-TO-TIME ... TO ENSURE YOU ARE BEING UNDERSTOOD, BEING JUDGED FOR WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU ARE REALLY TRYING TO ACHIEVE.

IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE, I THINK, TO WANT TO BE ASSESSED ON THAT BASIS. FOR MY PART THAT'S WHY I'M HERE TODAY ... TO VERIFY WHERE WE STAND, WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.

LOOKING BACK ON RECENT MONTHS AND YEARS IN THIS PORTFOLIO, THERE HAS BEEN A WIDE ARRAY OF EVENTS AND OF WHAT I FEEL ARE SOLID ACHIEVEMENTS. IT IS OFTEN DIFFICULT, IN SUCH A PORTFOLIO, TO SEPARATE THEM ALL OUT, EACH IN ITS OWN NEAT COMPARTMENT. EVENTS, LIKE THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENTS, ARE INTERTWINED.

BUT GENERALLY SPEAKING EVERYTHING THAT HAS OCCURRED SINCE I BECAME MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT CAN BE GROUPED INTO THREE BROAD CATEGORIES:

- MY COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS FOR INDIAN AND INUIT PEOPLE;

- MY COMMITMENT TO CO-ORDINATED POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND YUKON;

- MY COMMITMENT TO SETTLE NATIVE LAND CLAIMS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED FOR NEGOTIATION.

A NEW PATH FOR NATIVE PEOPLE:

LET ME START WITH A LOOK AT THE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN MARCH AND WHAT HAPPENED THERE. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR HISTORY, THE PRIME MINISTER, THE PREMIERS AND ABORIGINAL LEADERS MET SPECIFICALLY TO DISCUSS THE BASIC ISSUES WHICH PREOCCUPY ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN THEIR QUEST FOR A JUST PLACE IN CANADIAN SOCIETY. EVEN THREE YEARS AGO, WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THIS PORTFOLIO, PERHAPS ONLY A DREAMER WOULD HAVE PREDICTED THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD HAVE ACTUALLY TAKEN PLACE. BUT IT HAPPENED.

IT HAPPENED, AND IT WORKED. SOME PEOPLE SAY: "WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT; ALL THEY AGREED WAS TO KEEP TALKING". IN FACT, WE SHOULD NOT UNDERPLAY THE IMPORTANCE OF MORE CONFERENCES. BY ENGAGING THE FIRST MINISTERS IN A SERIES OF THREE MEETINGS OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, WE HAVE PUT RE-DEFINITION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND CANADA'S GOVERNMENTS AT THE TOP OF THE NATIONAL POLITICAL AGENDA. THERE HAS NEVER BEEN AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS BEFORE.

THE PARTIES MADE A COMMITMENT THAT ABORIGINAL POLITICAL LEADERS WILL PARTICIPATE WITH THE FIRST MINISTERS IN A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE BEFORE ANY AMENDMENTS ARE MADE TO THOSE PARTS OF THE CONSTITUTION DEALING EXCLUSIVELY WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLE. THIS IS NOT A FORMAL CONSENT CLAUSE, BUT IT GIVES ABORIGINAL PEOPLE A UNIQUE AND ONGOING POLITICAL SAY IN CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO THEM. THEY WILL HELP US RE-DESIGN CANADA SO THAT THEIR OWN PEOPLE ARE BETTER ACCOMMODATED WITHIN CANADA'S LEGAL AND POLITICAL FRAMEWORK.

PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, WE ESTABLISHED NEGOTIATION AS THE WAY TO DECIDE ON RELATIONSHIPS AND RIGHTS.

THE ACCORD WAS SIGNED BECAUSE ALL THE PARTIES (INCLUDING QUEBEC, EVEN IF THAT PROVINCE DID NOT SIGN) FOUND COMMON GROUND. THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE EVERYONE SAID WHAT THEY THOUGHT IN A SPIRIT OF RESPECT, AND WITH A GENUINE DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND AND REACH AN ACCOMMODATION. THE CONFERENCE SHOWED THAT THE THOUGHTFUL EXCHANGE OF DIFFERENCES CAN YIELD CONSENSUS. THE ACCORD, THEN, REPRESENTS NOT ONLY AGREEMENT ON CERTAIN SPECIFICS, IT IS A POWERFUL SYMBOL OF A NEW MODE OF OPEN NEGOTIATION WHICH WILL ENABLE ABORIGINAL LEADERS TO HELP SET THE COURSE FOR CANADA.

IT IS IN THIS SAME SPIRIT THAT I SEE THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INDIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT. ACROSS THE COUNTRY, THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF BANDS WHOSE GOVERNMENTS ARE LEGITIMIZED BY CENTURIES OF HISTORY, AND WHOSE LEADERS ENJOY POLITICAL SUPPORT WHICH OFTEN EXCEEDS THAT OF OTHER LEADERS IN CANADA. FOR THEM, THE INDIAN ACT IS A RECENT PHENOMENON. FOR TOO LONG, PERHAPS, WE HAVE IMPLIED THAT WE PLAN TO CREATE GOVERNMENTS FOR THEM. INDIAN PEOPLE RESPOND THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS ALREADY EXIST, AND THAT THEY WORK AS WELL AS THEY CAN IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES. WHAT INDIAN PEOPLE WANT TO CHANGE IS THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, SO THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS CAN FLOURISH.

I WANT THAT TOO. THREE YEARS AGO I BEGAN AN INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION INTO POSSIBLE WAYS TO HELP US REACH THIS GOAL. IN THE END, I FOUND THE PROBLEMS SO FUNDAMENTAL THAT I ASKED PARLIAMENT TO CREATE THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE WHICH HAS NOW WORKED SO DILIGENTLY ON THE SUBJECT. JUST TO REMIND YOU, THE TERMS OF REFERENCE WERE NEGOTIATED AMONG ALL PARTIES. I AM LOOKING TO THE COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND HOW WE CAN MOVE TOWARD A POLITICAL AND LEGAL SYSTEM IN WHICH INDIAN GOVERNMENTS CAN FLOURISH. IT IS IMPORTANT NOT ONLY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE PLACE OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT IN CANADIAN SOCIETY SHOULD BE, BUT ALSO TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE GOVERNMENT AND INDIAN PEOPLE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES FOR INDIAN GOVERNMENT. OUR JOINT STRATEGY MUST INCLUDE PRACTICAL MEANS OF CHANGING EXISTING LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES AT AN EARLY DATE TO UNLEASH THE CREATIVE ENERGIES OF INDIAN PEOPLE.

AS PART OF MY COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS FOR NATIVE PEOPLE, I HAVE TRIED TO FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THEIR GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN BETTER ABLE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THEIR CONSTITUENTS. WITH RESPECT TO INDIAN PEOPLE, I CAN CITE A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES WHICH I FEEL BEAR OUT THIS CLAIM.

IF WE DEAL WITH INDIAN GOVERNMENTS FIRST, THE FACT IS THAT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS IN TRANSFERRING RESPONSIBILITIES TO BAND AND REGIONAL INDIAN ORGANIZATIONS. THIS TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES IS ONLY A BEGINNING IN THE STRENGTHENING OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT. THE STRENGTHENING OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT MUST BE ADDRESSED THROUGH FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES ARISING FROM THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS AND FROM YOUR SPECIAL COMMITTEE. BUT IT SEEMS INDISPUTABLE TO ME THAT THE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES ENABLES INDIAN GOVERNMENTS TO DO MORE FOR THEIR CONSTITUENTS THAN THEY OTHERWISE COULD.

THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT BY THE END OF FISCAL YEAR 1980-81, 385 BANDS ACROSS CANADA WERE ADMINISTERING PROGRAMS ON-RESERVE. ALMOST ALL 573 BANDS ARE NOW DELIVERING SOME PROGRAMS ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT: FIFTY PER CENT OF INDIAN PROGRAM FUNDS OR $526,000,000 ARE TODAY MANAGED BY BANDS.

SINCE 1980, FOR EXAMPLE, INDIAN CONTROL OF EDUCATION HAS DEVELOPED WITH NOTABLE AND ENCOURAGING SUCCESS, AND HAS RECEIVED PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT. THERE ARE NOW THREE OFFICIAL INDIAN AND INUIT SCHOOL BOARDS AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL - TWO OF WHICH WERE CREATED AS A RESULT OF THE JAMES BAY AGREEMENT - AND 58 CULTURAL OR EDUCATIONAL CENTRES

MANAGED BY INDIANS AND INUIT IN NINE PROVINCES AND YUKON. IN 1982-83 THE CULTURAL EDUCATION CENTRES PROGRAM SERVED ABOUT 64 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL ELIGIBLE INDIAN POPULATION. AS WELL, INDIAN COMMUNITIES OPERATED 185 SCHOOLS WHICH SERVE ABOUT 10,000 NATIVE STUDENTS AND THIS IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE EACH YEAR.

IN POST-SECONDARY INDIAN AND INUIT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, THERE HAVE BEEN DRAMATIC SUCCESSES. IN 1969, THERE WERE 147 INDIAN STUDENTS ENROLLED IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS. BY THE END OF 1982, THIS HAD RISEN TO 6,800 STUDENTS, ACCOUNTING FOR A BUDGET ALLOCATION OF ABOUT $25 MILLION.

AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF WHERE INDIAN GOVERNMENTS AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE COME TO BETTER SERVE THEIR CONSTITUENTS, THE LANDMARK CANADA/MANITOBA/INDIAN CHILD WELFARE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN 1982. THIS AGREEMENT, BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, MANITOBA AND INDIANS HAS SERVED AS A MODEL FOR NEGOTIATION WITH OTHER PROVINCES. WE HAVE ALSO NEGOTIATED TRIPARTITE CHILD WELFARE AGREEMENTS WITH ALBERTA AND NEW BRUNSWICK. IN ALL THREE PROVINCES THE BANDS COVERED BY THESE AGREEMENTS WILL RECEIVE CHILD WELFARE SERVICES EQUAL TO THOSE OFFERED TO OTHER CITIZENS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE PROVINCES.

ASIDE FROM THE MAJOR STEPS WHICH I HAVE MENTIONED THAT CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO MEETING OUR OBJECTIVES, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY INDIRECT MEASURES.

IN 1980, THE DEPARTMENT RELEASED THE REPORT INDIAN CONDITIONS: A SURVEY, WHICH REVIEWED HOW CIRCUMSTANCES HAD CHANGED FOR INDIANS OVER THE 70s. IT INDICATED CLEARLY THAT, WHILE THERE WAS PROGRESS, INDIANS ARE STILL DISADVANTAGED RELATIVE TO OTHER CANADIANS, AND I DECIDED TO TAKE ACTION TO CORRECT THIS FACT.

THUS IN THE CRITICAL AREA OF INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, I UNDERTOOK TO SHIFT THE EMPHASIS FROM HIGH-PROFILE, LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS, WHICH OFTEN BY-PASSED INDIAN PEOPLE, TO A RESERVE AND LOCAL-COMMUNITY-ORIENTED LEVEL, BETTER SUITED TO COMMUNITY NEEDS, CAPABILITIES, AND RESOURCES. TWO EXAMPLES OF THESE SELF-SUSTAINING, LONG-TERM PROJECTS ARE: WILD RICE HARVESTING; AND A CARIBOU MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IN NORTHERN SASKATCHEWAN, MANITOBA AND THE N.W.T.

I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU OF ANOTHER INDIAN SUCCESS STORY, THAT OF THE PACIFIC COAST INDIANS AND THE PURCHASE OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA PACKERS LTD.'s GILL NET FLEET ALMOST EXACTLY ONE YEAR AGO -- TO BE PRECISE JUNE 10, 1982.

SINCE THAT TIME A NUMBER OF POSITIVE THINGS HAVE HAPPENED - THE FLEET IS BEING SYSTEMATICALLY UPGRADED; IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT 102 VESSELS WILL HAVE BEEN SOLD TO INDIVIDUAL INDIAN FISHERMEN BY THE END OF THIS YEAR; 49 FISHERMEN HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED SIX-WEEK TRAINING COURSES WITH AN AVERAGE GRADE OF 75 PERCENT AND FINALLY THE NORTHERN NATIVE FISHING CORPORATION ENJOYED A MODEST FIRST YEAR PROFIT.

THEN, IN 1982, I AND MY COLLEAGUE MONIQUE BEGIN, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, ANNOUNCED THE FEDERAL COMMITMENT TO SPEND $154 MILLION OVER FIVE YEARS TO ESTABLISH A NATIVE ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM.

ADDITIONALLY, IN 1983, I ANNOUNCED, WITH EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION MINISTER LLOYD AXWORTHY, THAT MORE THAN $20 MILLION WOULD BE ALLOCATED TO INDIAN JOB CREATION THROUGH A SPECIAL DIAND COMPONENT OF THE NEW EMPLOYMENT EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT (N.E.E.D.) PROGRAM.

WE ARE COMBINING THE $20 MILLION WITH $29 MILLION FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S SOCIAL ASSISTANCE BUDGET AND OTHER CAPITAL TO PROVIDE A $49 MILLION PACKAGE OF JOB CREATION FUNDING TO PROVIDE 7,500 JOBS FOR INDIAN PEOPLE. MUCH OF THE N.E.E.D. ACTIVITY ON INDIAN RESERVES WILL BE IN THE AREA OF HOUSING AND WILL GIVE ADDED IMPETUS TO OUR HOUSING PROGRAM.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, ONE OF THE KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS HAS BEEN IN HOUSING FOR INDIAN PEOPLE. IN THIS HOUSING AREA, MORE PARTICULARLY, INCREASED FUNDING OF $62.3 MILLION BRINGS THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL BUDGET FOR ON-RESERVE HOUSING TO $136 MILLION. THIS INCLUDES A $22.3 MILLION, ONGOING ADDITION TO THE ON-RESERVE HOUSING BUDGET AND $40 MILLION OF SPECIAL RECOVERY FUNDS FOR THIS YEAR ONLY. THIS LEVEL OF FUNDING TRANSLATES INTO 3,200 NEW HOUSES AND 3,000 RENOVATIONS. FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO BEGIN TO REDUCE SEVERE HOUSING SHORTAGES ON RESERVES. THE $40 MILLION WILL ALLOW FOR AN ADDITIONAL 800 HOUSES TO BE BUILT THIS YEAR AND PROVIDE NECESSARY SERVICES, SUCH AS WATER, SEWERS, ROADS AND HOOK-UPS FOR ELECTRICITY, FOR THESE UNITS.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S SPECIAL RECOVERY PROJECTS PROGRAM IN THE MOST RECENT BUDGET HAS PROVIDED $10 MILLION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES FOR INDIAN BANDS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA. AS A RESULT, 13 B.C. INDIAN COMMUNITIES WILL GET NEW OR UPGRADED WATER, SEWAGE AND FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS. THIS ACCELERATION OF PROJECTS WILL HELP US TO MEET THE PRESSING NEEDS OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO HEALTH AND SAFETY, AS WELL AS PROVIDE IMMEDIATE ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND EMPLOYMENT.

NEW RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NORTH:

MY POLICY DIRECTION FOR THE NORTH OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS RECEIVED ITS MOST CONCRETE EXPRESSION IN MY ANNOUNCEMENTS OF LAST NOVEMBER.

FROM NOW ON I WILL BE WORKING WITH NORTHERNERS TO IMPLEMENT CABINET'S NOVEMBER DECISION TO MOVE TOWARD RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN THE TERRITORIES, TO FACE THE QUESTION OF DIVISION OF THE N.W.T., AND TO PROVIDE FORMULA FINANCING AND DISCRETIONARY REVENUES FOR THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS.

MY DEPARTMENT IS NOW EXPLORING WAYS TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES. WE ARE COMMITTED TO VESTING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES OF NORTHERN GOVERNMENT IN NORTHERN GOVERNMENTS. WE EXPECT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS TO PROVIDE, ON THE ONE HAND, AN INCENTIVE FOR INCREASED TERRITORIAL FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND, ON THE OTHER HAND, A MORE PREDICTABLE BASE FOR FISCAL PLANNING.

I ADDRESSED THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ASSEMBLY ON MAY 11. AT THAT TIME I ANNOUNCED THAT THE POSITION OF A FEDERALLY APPOINTED DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, AS AN ACTIVE FEATURE OF NORTHERN POLITICS AND PARTICIPANT IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WILL CEASE TO EXIST FOLLOWING THE NEXT

TERRITORIAL ELECTION. AT THE SAME TIME I REPEATED THAT THE COMMISSIONER WILL CONTINUE AS AN IMPORTANT STABILIZING INFLUENCE AND LINK BETWEEN THE TWO LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT UNTIL CLAIMS ARE SETTLED AND THE POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS IN THE N.W.T. ARE BOTH CLARIFIED AND SUPPORTED BY NORTHERNERS.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL ALLIANCE HAS MADE A GOOD START ON BUILDING A NORTHERN CONSENSUS ON THE ISSUES WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED PRIOR TO ANY POSSIBLE DIVISION OF THE N.W.T. THE FEDERAL ROLE IN THIS PROCESS WILL BE TO HELP WHERE WE CAN, AND ON MAY 11, I WAS ALSO ABLE TO ANNOUNCE OUR GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO FUND THE TWO FORUMS THAT MAKE UP THE ALLIANCE TO A TOTAL OF $2,207,500.

THESE MAJOR STEPS HAVE BEEN SUPPLEMENTED BY INDIRECT MEASURES WHICH ALSO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO MEETING OUR OBJECTIVES. EXAMPLES OF DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAVE HELPED THE YUKON AND NWT GOVERNMENTS WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY FOR THEIR CONSTITUENTS MUST INCLUDE, OF COURSE, THE FACT THAT MY NORTHERN CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES HAVE HELPED TO CLEAR THE AIR. BOTH THE YUKON TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT AND THE GNWT NOW HAVE A BETTER SENSE OF THE FUTURE AND ARE BETTER ABLE TO DEVELOP POLICIES WHICH ARE IN LINE WITH THAT FUTURE.

WE IN OTTAWA HAVE ALSO HELPED NORTHERN GOVERNMENTS TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE BY ASSISTING IN SHORING-UP NORTHERN ECONOMIES DURING SOME VERY ROUGH YEARS.

THE RECORD SHOWS THAT MY DEPARTMENT WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HELP THEM TO BETTER SERVE THEIR ELECTORATES. IN DECEMBER, 1982, WE CONCLUDED A $21 MILLION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE GNWT, AND ARE NEGOTIATING A COMPARABLE AGREEMENT WITH YUKON. THESE BLUEPRINTS WILL GUIDE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY AND STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMIC BASE OF THE TERRITORIES.

THE N.W.T. OVERALL AGREEMENT HAS NOW BEEN FLESHED OUT WITH THE APPROVAL OF TWO SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENTS. WORTH MORE THAN $15 MILLION OVER FOUR YEARS, THESE AGREEMENTS WILL FOCUS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE DOMESTIC MARKET, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF TOURISM AND SMALL BUSINESS. WHILE SUCH ACTIVITY CANNOT REPLACE NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AS THE MAIN WEALTH GENERATOR IN THE NORTH, IT CAN CERTAINLY HELP TO STABILIZE THE ECONOMY AND TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF THE TERRITORIES BY DIVERSIFYING THEIR ECONOMIC BASE.

THE BEDROCK OF BOTH TERRITORIES' ECONOMIES IS THEIR IMMENSE NATURAL RESOURCES. DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN HYDROCARBON RESERVES WILL, THEREFORE, HAVE A PROFOUND INFLUENCE ON THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF BOTH THE YTG AND THE GNWT.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REGIME UNDER THE CANADA OIL AND GAS ACT WILL HELP US GET THERE IN AN ORDERLY WAY. ANOTHER STABILIZER WAS THE CREATION OF THE CANADA OIL AND GAS LANDS ADMINISTRATION (COGLA) TO ADMINISTER HYDROCARBON RESOURCES ON CANADA LANDS.

AN IMPORTANT PART OF THIS PROCESS HAS BEEN THE CONVERSION OF EXISTING NORTHERN OIL AND GAS RIGHTS. WITHIN THE LAST YEAR, SOME 34 NORTHERN EXPLORATION AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED, RESULTING IN ABOUT $3.6 BILLION IN NORTHERN EXPENDITURES OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. ONE OF OUR KEY OBJECTIVES IN NEGOTIATING THESE RIGHTS HAS BEEN TO ENSURE THAT BENEFITS FLOW TO CANADIAN BUSINESS. I WANT NORTHERNERS TO HAVE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO PROFIT FROM ACTIVITY IN THEIR OWN TERRITORIES.

INDUSTRY IS GEARING UP FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTION IN 1990s. CONSEQUENTLY, GOVERNMENT HAS INITIATED A RESEARCH AND PLANNING EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE PHASED DEVELOPMENT. THIS FEDERAL PLANNING STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN HYDROCARBON DEVELOPMENT WILL ENCOMPASS ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH, REGULATORY REVIEW AND TECHNICAL PLANNING.

MEANWHILE, GREAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE WITH THE NORMAN WELLS PROJECT. IT IS ON SCHEDULE AND OIL WILL FLOW IN 1985. SINCE APPROVAL TO GO AHEAD WAS RECEIVED, MORE THAN $20 MILLION HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR SPECIAL PROGRAMS TO UPGRADE THE SKILLS OF NORTHERNERS AND ENHANCE EMPLOYEE OPPORTUNITIES. THE MONEY HAS BEEN WELL SPENT AS THE RESULTS INDICATE. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT HAS BEEN HIGH (785 NORTHERNERS, 495 P/Y's) AND THE TWO COMPANIES INVOLVED, ESSO RESOURCES AND INTERPROVINCIAL PIPELINES, AS OF LAST MONTH, HAVE SPENT ALMOST $55 MILLION IN CONTRACTS WITH MORE THAN 140 NORTHERN BUSINESSES. OF PERHAPS EVEN GREATER LASTING VALUE WILL BE THE EMERGING JOINT VENTURE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN ESSO AND THE DENE/METIS WITH RESPECT TO A DRILLING RIG OPERATION.

I HAVE ALSO TAKEN ACTION ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS, AS THE RECENT CYPRUS ANVIL AGREEMENT SHOWS. A $50 MILLION JOINT ACTION PLAN WILL PARTIALLY REOPEN AND DEVELOP THE MINE, ALLOWING THE COMPANY TO RESPOND IMMEDIATELY TO ANY UPTURN IN METAL MARKETS AND ASSURING THE YTG THAT A KEY ELEMENT IN ITS RESOURCE BASE AS A GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE LOST.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS RELEASED ITS REPORT IN APRIL 1982 ON ELECTRICAL POWER NORTH OF 60°. A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE WHICH WOULD BRING SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE

ENERGY PICTURE IN THE NORTH AND AT THE SAME TIME HAVE SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS CONSUMERS.

I FELT IT WAS PREMATURE TO ACT BEFORE ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE, AND THEREFORE ASKED THE NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF NCPC RATE SETTING METHODOLOGIES, RATE REVIEWS AND THE CORRESPONDING CHANGES TO THE NCPC ACT.

MEANWHILE, I HAVE ANNOUNCED THE EXTENSION OF THE THREE DIRECT ENERGY SUBSIDIES UNTIL MARCH 31, 1984 WHILE THE COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS TO THE ENERGY COST AND SUBSIDIES ARE PUT IN PLACE. THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO ENSURE THE VIABILITY OF NCPC DURING THE PERIOD OF ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN IN THE NORTH AND WILL MAINTAIN THE ELECTRICAL RATE INCREASES WITHIN THE 6 AND 5 PERCENT GUIDELINES OF THE ADMINISTERED PRICES POLICY.

IT WOULD BE HALF THE STORY TO SPEAK OF NORTHERN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT MENTIONING OUR PARALLEL AND EQUAL CONCERN FOR THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT. OUR RECORD OF MANAGING HIGH LEVELS OF EXPLORATION ACTIVITY IN THE BEAUFORT SEA WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE IS A SOURCE OF PRIDE TO ME AND TO NORTHERNERS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS MANAGEMENT. I PLAN TO ADOPT A SIMILAR APPROACH TO IMPENDING ACTIVITY IN THE HUDSON'S BAY AREA.

TO MAINTAIN THIS RECORD IN THE FACE OF ANTICIPATED HIGHER LEVELS OF INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY, WE HAVE MOVED FORCEFULLY TO DEVELOP AN ADEQUATE PLANNING AND POLICY BASE FOR THE NEXT TWO DECADES. COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL LAND USE PLANNING IS NOW BEING IMPLEMENTED WITH THE SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION OF TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS AND NORTHERN NATIVE ASSOCIATIONS. THE PRODUCTION LAST YEAR OF THE LANCASTER SOUND GREEN PAPER ILLUSTRATES THE POTENTIAL VALUE OF SUCH PLANNING.

AGAIN, WITH THE RELEASE OF THE MOST RECENT BUDGET, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS SIGNALED ITS BELIEF THAT ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS UNDER WAY AND PROVIDED MEASURES AND FUNDING TO SPEED THIS PROCESS IN THE NORTH. I WAS ABLE TO ANNOUNCE A NUMBER OF SPECIAL RECOVERY CAPITAL PROJECTS WHILE IN THE NORTH DESIGNED TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE VITAL NORTHERN INFRASTRUCTURE. THIS INCLUDED $15 MILLION FOR WORK ON THE AIR TERMINALS AT INUVIK AND FROBISHER BAY, AND A TOTAL OF $19 MILLION TO IMPROVE SECTIONS OF THE DEMPSTER HIGHWAY AND THE CARCROSS-SKAGWAY ROAD.

FINALLY, I WILL CONCLUDE BY OBSERVING THAT MY CONCERN ABOUT THIS GOVERNMENT'S LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS ABORIGINAL PEOPLES LED ME, AT THE BEGINNING OF MY MANDATE, TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT A REVIEW OF OUR POLICIES REGARDING NATIVE LAND CLAIMS. THIS WORK LED TO A REAFFIRMATION AND CLARIFICATION

OF BOTH THE SPECIFIC AND COMPREHENSIVE CLAIMS POLICIES, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCEDURAL, COMPENSATORY AND OTHER GUIDELINES. THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY THE RELEASE OF POLICY BOOKLETS DESCRIBING THE POLICIES IN DETAIL: IN ALL FAIRNESS DEALING WITH COMPREHENSIVE CLAIMS IN DECEMBER 1981; AND OUTSTANDING BUSINESS CONCERNING SPECIFIC CLAIMS IN MAY 1982.

SOME OF THE MORE NOTEWORTHY EVENTS SINCE THAT TIME INCLUDE:

- JAMES BAY AGREEMENT WAS REVIEWED AS A RESULT OF NATIVE GRIEVANCES, RESULTING IN NEW COMMITMENT IN 1982 TO PROVIDE $61.4 MILLION UNTIL MARCH 31, 1987 TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES IN IMPLEMENTATION;

- AGREEMENT REACHED WITH THE COUNCIL FOR YUKON INDIANS ON THE FINANCIAL COMPENSATION COMPONENT OF THEIR CLAIM, REPRESENTING $183 MILLION PAYABLE OVER 20 YEARS. IN ADDITION, THE PENTICTON BAND "CUT-OFF" CLAIM AGREEMENT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA GAVE THE BAND MORE THAN $14 MILLION AND WILL RESULT IN THE RETURN OF SOME 4,860 HECTARES OF LAND SEVERED FROM THEIR RESERVE IN 1916;

- SIMILAR AGREEMENTS WITH THE OSOYOOS AND CLINTON BANDS INVOLVE THEIR RECEIVING NEARLY $1 MILLION AND $150,000 RESPECTIVELY IN FINANCIAL COMPENSATION PLUS THE RETURN OF 68.8 HECTARES TO THE CLINTON BAND;

- THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT SETTLING A CLAIM OF THE WAGMATCOOK BAND FOR LOSS OF RESERVE LAND DATING BACK TO CONFEDERATION;

- THE RECENT REACHING OF TERMS OF SETTLEMENT WITH THE OROMOCTO BAND IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND THE GARDEN RIVER BAND IN ONTARIO ON THEIR CLAIMS FOR LOSS OF LAND.

ON OTHER ASPECTS OF LAND CLAIMS, OUR BASE FOR LOANS TO NATIVE CLAIMANTS IN FISCAL YEAR 1982-83 TO SUPPORT CLAIMS RESEARCH, PREPARATION AND NEGOTIATION WAS INCREASED FROM $8.4 MILLION TO $14.3 MILLION. FINALLY, I HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO FURTHER ACCELERATE THE CLAIMS PROCESS BY APPOINTING CHIEF GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATORS FROM OUTSIDE THE PUBLIC SERVICE TO LEAD THE NEGOTIATIONS IN SIX OF THE LARGEST OUTSTANDING CLAIMS.

IN CONCLUSION, I HOPE THAT IN REVIEWING WITH THIS COMMITTEE THE MANY INITIATIVES AND SOME OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE RECENT PAST, I HAVE LEFT YOU TODAY WITH SOME REASON TO SUPPORT MY CONTENTION THAT MY DEPARTMENT HAS MADE GREAT STRIDES TOWARDS MEETING ITS LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES. WE HAVE DONE THIS BY FOSTERING AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH ABORIGINAL, NORTHERN, AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS CAN BETTER SERVE THEIR ELECTORATES; AND, BY HELPING TO CHANGE THE CANADIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM IN FUNDAMENTAL WAYS, SO THAT ABORIGINAL AND NORTHERN GOVERNMENTS CAN PROVIDE BETTER LEADERSHIP TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS AND CAN PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN DETERMINING THE FUTURE COURSE OF ALL CANADA.

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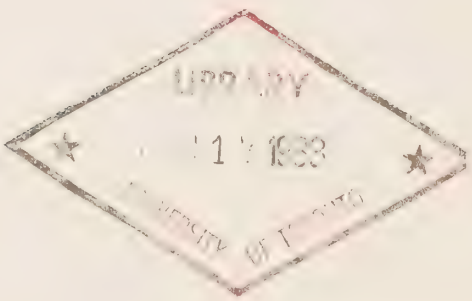
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NOTES PREPARED FOR
THE HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO, P.C. M.P.
MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
ONTARIO ALL CHIEFS' CONFERENCE
TORONTO, ONTARIO
JUNE 8, 1983

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



Canada

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME HERE TODAY. THE THEME OF YOUR CONFERENCE, SELF-GOVERNMENT, IS A VITAL ONE AND I WILL, IN MY TALK, OUTLINE TO YOU SOME OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVES REGARDING SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR INDIAN PEOPLE.

WHILE I WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT MY CRYSTAL BALL IS A GOOD ONE, I AM SURE NEITHER I NOR ANYONE ELSE HERE WILL HAVE THE LAST WORD ON SELF-GOVERNMENT.

FOR THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLE IS ONE OF THOSE ANCIENT HUMAN PROBLEMS THAT GOES RIGHT BACK TO THE VERY ROOTS OF MANKIND. OUR CURRENT PROBLEMS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT ARE REALLY VERY OLD PROBLEMS. WE SEE THEM IN THE HISTORY OF NATIVE AMERICAN PEOPLE FROM THE AZTECS TO THE IROQUOIS OR THE EUROPEAN EMPIRES OF ROME AND ATHENS. THEY ARE EMBEDDED IN THE HUMAN DESIRE FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT. AND THE PROBLEMS OF RESOLVING DIVERGING INTERESTS ARE AS DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH TODAY AS THEY WERE THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO. ALL THAT HAS CHANGED IS THE STAKES HAVE BECOME A LOT HIGHER. PEOPLE WANT TO CONTROL AND DIRECT THEIR OWN AFFAIRS, TO FASHION THEIR OWN DESTINIES. IT'S A FEELING AS NATURAL AS ENJOYING THE SUNSHINE ON A SPRING DAY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, MOST PEOPLE ALSO WANT TO ENJOY THE FRUITS OF CO-OPERATIVE LIVING AND THIS INVOLVES RELINQUISHING PART OF A COMMUNITY'S INDEPENDENCE IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WIDER CIRCLE OF DECISION-MAKING.

YET THE SECOND DESIRE IS NOT EASILY COMPATIBLE WITH THE FIRST. THEREIN, OF COURSE, LIES ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL HUMAN DILEMMAS. TWO POWERFUL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FORCES WORKING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS. IT'S A DILEMMA WHICH HAS OCCUPIED ORDINARY PEOPLE, PHILOSOPHERS, LAWYERS, THE MILITARY, SCIENTISTS, ECONOMISTS, AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, POLITICIANS SINCE WE FIRST BEGAN AS PEOPLE BANDING TOGETHER IN COMMUNITIES.

THE EXCITING THING ABOUT BEING INVOLVED IN INDIAN AFFAIRS RIGHT NOW IS THAT WE HAVE ENTERED ONE OF THESE PERIODS WHEN SOME OF THOSE DIFFICULTIES SEEM RESOLVABLE. THE ISSUE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT IS BEING ADDRESSED IN A VARIETY OF WAYS: THROUGH YOUR ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE ALL CHIEFS' CONFERENCE; THROUGH THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INDIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT; AND THROUGH THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS.

I'M ALSO ANXIOUS TO SEE INDIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT REFORM AS I BELIEVE PARLIAMENT DOES. FOR WHEN I ASKED PARLIAMENT ON AUGUST 4, 1982 TO CREATE THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INDIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT, THERE WAS ALL-PARTY AGREEMENT. THE COMMITTEE WAS GIVEN WIDE RANGING TERMS OF REFERENCE TO TAKE A COMPREHENSIVE, UNINHIBITED EXAMINATION OF INDIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE INCLUDED EVERYTHING FROM THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS RIGHT THROUGH TO THE LEGAL CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR INDIAN GOVERNMENTS TO FLOURISH. THE A.F.N. IS REPRESENTED ON THE COMMITTEE AS AN EX-OFFICIO MEMBER. AND I FIRMLY BELIEVE THE NON-PARTISAN SPIRIT IN WHICH PARLIAMENT LAUNCHED THIS COMMITTEE LESS THAN ONE YEAR AGO WILL BE PRESENT TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS WHEN THE COMMITTEE REPORTS IN SEPTEMBER.

I AM COUNTING ON THE COMMITTEE TO BE SUCCESSFUL. I CAN'T ALLOW MYSELF TO THINK OTHERWISE FOR I DO NOT THINK THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INDIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT IS AN EXERCISE THAT WE WILL SEE REPEATED FOR A LONG TIME TO COME. IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REFORM WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE; AND NOT JUST BECAUSE OF THE COMMITTEE'S EFFORTS ALONE, BUT BECAUSE OF YOUR EFFORTS.

THE SEARCH FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE GOVERNMENT AND INDIAN PEOPLE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE A NEW BASIS FOR INDIAN GOVERNMENT IS IN THE AIR. WE SEE IT AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL TABLE, IN TRIPARTITE AND BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. INDIAN LEADERS, INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ARE STRETCHING TO HAMMER OUT A NEW VISION OF HOW INDIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT CAN EVOLVE. WHILE THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS IS A NEW AND EXCITING DIMENSION IN THE DRIVE FOR REFORMING THE SYSTEM THAT WE PRESENTLY HAVE, THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL NEGOTIATIONS ARE, ALSO, VITAL, NECESSARY PIECES OF THE PUZZLE. I RECALL, FOR EXAMPLE, PREMIER DAVIS MENTIONING THIS IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS AT THE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE WHEN, AMONG OTHER COMPLIMENTARY THINGS, HE SAID: "NATIVE LEADERS HAVE SERVED TO ADVANCE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF MANY ISSUES".

THE MOMENTUM FOR INDIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT IS ON FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE COUNTRY AND AT EVERY LEVEL.

THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THAT MOMENTUM FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT REFORM GOING AT THE BAND LEVEL IS SOMETHING I HAVE BEEN PUSHING FOR WITHIN MY DEPARTMENT AND THESE EFFORTS HAVE PAID OFF. I AM PLEASED TO CONFIRM TO YOU THAT MY DEPARTMENT HAS JUST RECEIVED 36.9 MILLION DOLLARS FOR SUPPORT TO BAND GOVERNMENTS. THIS ALMOST DOUBLES THE MONEY AVAILABLE FOR BAND GOVERNMENT PURPOSES. THE 36.9 MILLION JUMPS THE FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER TREASURY BOARD AUTHORITY FROM 38.4 MILLION DOLLARS TO 75.3 MILLION. THIS WILL MAKE POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING CORE AND OVERHEAD PROGRAMS. MY OFFICIALS WILL BE REVIEWING THIS CHANGE WITH YOU IN THE COMING WEEKS BUT I CAN TELL YOU NOW THAT RECENT ESTIMATES INDICATE THAT UP TO 7 MILLION ADDITIONAL DOLLARS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ONTARIO BANDS IN 1983-84.

I HAVE ALSO RECEIVED AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TO BANDS, CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE EMPLOYER'S SHARE OF EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS. THIS WILL ENABLE THOSE BANDS WHO WISH TO DO SO TO IMPLEMENT PENSION PLANS, AND OTHER BENEFITS FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES COMPARABLE TO THOSE AVAILABLE TO FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVANTS. MY OFFICIALS WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSING THIS INITIATIVE WITH YOU DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.

FOR YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT AND BANDS HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY OBTAINING FUNDING FOR BAND COUNCILS. THESE PROGRAM CHANGES, NOW APPROVED, COULD NOT HAVE COME AT A MORE APPROPRIATE TIME BECAUSE THE NEW FUNDING FOR HOUSING THAT I ANNOUNCED LAST MONTH WILL REQUIRE AN EXPANSION OF BAND GOVERNMENT EXPERTISE. BAND COUNCILS ARE, OF COURSE, THE CONSTRUCTION SIDE OF THE NEW HOUSING INITIATIVES.

FROM OUR SIDE OF THE TABLE, WE ARE MOVING TO MAKE SURE THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN DELIVER TO YOU THE BEST PROGRAMS AVAILABLE IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL CLIMATE. AS I OUTLINED IN WINNIPEG, THE DEPARTMENT'S ON-RESERVE HOUSING BUDGET RECEIVED 22.3 MILLION ADDITIONAL DOLLARS ON MARCH 1, 1983. THIS 22.3 MILLION IS A PERMANENT ONGOING ADDITION TO THE DEPARTMENT'S HOUSING BUDGET. AS WELL, THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A $40-MILLION, ONE TIME ONLY, GRANT UNDER A SPECIAL PROJECTS RECOVERY BUDGET INTRODUCED BY THE HONOURABLE MARC LALONDE IN APRIL. THESE ADDITIONS TO OUR HOUSING BUDGET WILL PERMIT THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME TO MEET NOT ONLY THE CURRENT DEMAND FOR HOUSING, BUT TO BEGIN REPLACING OVERCROWDED UNITS.

ON A NATIONAL SCALE, OUR HOUSING BUDGET IS 136 MILLION DOLLARS: THIS TRANSLATES INTO 3,200 NEW HOUSING UNITS AND 3,000 RENOVATIONS THIS YEAR. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A SIX PERCENT SUBSIDY GRANTED ACROSS THE BOARD AS WELL AS AN ECONOMIC SUBSIDY OF 6,000 DOLLARS FOR HOUSING ON RURAL RESERVES AND A 12,000 DOLLAR SUBSIDY FOR HOUSING LOCATED IN REMOTE AREAS. THIS TRANSLATES INTO ALMOST TWENTY-NINE MILLION DOLLARS FOR HOUSING FROM THE NATIONAL ON-RESERVE HOUSING BUDGET. THIS MONEY SHOULD BUILD 741 NEW HOUSES AND COMPLETE 448 RENOVATIONS FOR INDIAN PEOPLE IN ONTARIO.

I AM PROUD OF THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS. THEY TAKE LONG HOURS TO GET THESE PROGRAM CHANGES THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, TO CABINET AND THEN THROUGH TREASURY BOARD. BUT THE PROBLEM OF PROMOTING REFORMS SUCH AS SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPENDS TO A LARGE EXTENT, NOT ON CHANGES MADE TO ONGOING PROGRAMS, BUT TO NEW INITIATIVES THAT CAN RESULT FROM THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN INDIAN LEADERS, PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS.

THIS PROBLEM OF PROMOTING REFORM AT THE LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL WAS, I THINK, ON THE MINDS OF MANY INDIAN LEADERS WHEN THEY GAVE INTERVIEWS TO THE MEDIA AFTER THE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE. THEY WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT CONFERENCE AND REALIZING THAT ITS SUCCESS WOULD DEPEND LARGELY ON HOW NEGOTIATIONS WENT AT THE COMMUNITY, PROVINCIAL AND TRIPARTITE LEVEL. AS AT LEAST ONE NATIVE LEADER AT THE CONFERENCE OBSERVED, THE CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS ARE NOT A PANACEA. THEY INEVITABLY WILL REFLECT AND BE PART OF THE SUCCESSFUL DISCUSSIONS AT THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL LEVEL. FOR ULTIMATELY IT MUST BE A TRIPARTITE PROCESS, AND I'M HAPPY TO SAY THAT IN ONTARIO, WE HAVE EVOLVED A VERY ACTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION PROCESS.

THE INDIAN COMMISSION OF ONTARIO BEGAN AS AN EXPERIMENT FIVE YEARS AGO AND HAS EMERGED AS A MODEL OF HOW TRIPARTITE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND INDIAN LEADERS CAN BE HELD.

WE ARE BEGINNING TO GET, FOR EXAMPLE, A GOOD SENSE OF WHAT CAN BE DONE WITHIN THIS TRIPARTITE FRAMEWORK AND WHAT SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL FORUM. WE ARE SEEING THIS HAPPEN ON A WIDE VARIETY OF ISSUES

SUCH AS THE FISHING NEGOTIATIONS, SOCIAL SERVICES DELIVERY, AND POLICING. THIS IS A HEALTHY SITUATION BECAUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME ALL THREE PARTIES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SENSE THAT PROBLEMS ARE RESOLVABLE; THAT WE CAN DEAL WITH THEM IN A CONSTRUCTIVE, PROGRESSIVE MANNER.

THIS IS THE GREAT CONTRIBUTION THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS ARE MAKING TO THE RESOLUTION OF LOCAL ISSUES. IN THE PAST, FOR EXAMPLE, DISCUSSIONS THAT WERE LEADING TOWARDS SOLUTIONS TO SPECIFIC REGIONAL PROBLEMS OFTEN COLLAPSED IN A TANGLE OF LAWS, SOME OF THEM RECENT, SOME OF THEM DATING BACK SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS. THE DIFFERENCE THAT THE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE HAS MADE IS THAT WE NOW HAVE AN ONGOING PROCESS AT THE HIGHEST POLITICAL LEVEL BY WHICH WE CAN BEGIN TO SORT OUT THOSE PROBLEMS WHICH CAN AND SHOULD BE RESOLVED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL AND THOSE WHICH SHOULD BE RESOLVED ON A NATIONAL BASIS.

THIS PROCESS OF SEPARATING OUT THE VARIOUS PARTS OF A NEGOTIATION PROBLEM OFTEN REDUCES THE WHOLE PROBLEM TO A MANAGEABLE SIZE AND ALLOWS THE ENTIRE PROCESS TO MOVE FORWARD. FOR WHEN WE SUCCEED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL OVER AN ISSUE LIKE THE GARDEN RIVER CLAIM OR AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL OVER AN ISSUE LIKE INDIAN POLICING, IT ENHANCES SUCCESS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. SIMILARLY SUCCESS AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL TABLE SUCH AS AGREEING ON THE ACCORD ENHANCES OUR ABILITY TO ADDRESS LOCAL ISSUES. IN OTHER WORDS, SUCCESS WHETHER IT IS AT THE DISTRICT, PROVINCIAL OR FEDERAL LEVEL IS ALWAYS MUTUALLY REINFORCING. THAT IS WHAT I MEAN BY SAYING INDIAN SOCIAL CHANGE IN CANADA ULTIMATELY MUST BE THE PRODUCT OF A TRIPARTITE PROCESS.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE SOLUTIONS WILL NOT ALWAYS BE WORDED EXACTLY AS EACH PARTY WOULD PREFER. BUT THAT IS THE NATURE OF THE BARGAINING PROCESS. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT ON A VARIETY OF IMPORTANT ISSUES WE ARE BEGINNING TO SEE THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL. WE'RE SEEING IT ON INDIAN POLICING. <u>IN ONTARIO, WE HAVE AN INDIAN POLICING AGREEMENT</u> AND WE HAVE INDIAN POLICE CONSTABLES INVOLVED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT ON RESERVES. FURTHER DISCUSSIONS RELATED TO THIS ISSUE ARE PRESENTLY BEING DISCUSSED WITHIN THE TRIPARTITE FORUM.

ONTARIO IS THE ONLY PROVINCE TO HAVE A JOINT REPORT ON SERVICES FOR INDIAN PEOPLE. HERE WE HAVE AGREEMENT ON WHAT SERVICES SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO INDIAN PEOPLE AND WHAT LEVEL OF EXPENDITURES SHOULD BE PROVIDED BY EACH LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH ULTIMATE QUESTIONS OF INDIAN CONTROL ARE CONSTITUTIONAL, THIS REPORT IS THE FIRST COMPREHENSIVE MODEL THAT WE HAVE EVER HAD ON JUST HOW FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS CAN PROCEED IN TERMS OF COOPERATING ON THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR INDIAN PEOPLE. IT'S A FIRST THAT I THINK WE ALL SHOULD BE PROUD OF, A FIRST THAT WILL ALLOW INDIAN PEOPLE TO TAKE CONTROL OF A WHOLE RANGE OF MODERN COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES.

THE ONTARIO FISHING AGREEMENT IS, OF COURSE, ANOTHER ISSUE WHICH INTIMATELY INVOLVES THE TRIPARTITE PROCESS. I KNOW MANY OF YOU ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT WE DON'T HAVE SIGNATURES ON THIS AGREEMENT TODAY, BUT WE ARE CLOSE. AND I KNOW ALL SIDES ARE ANXIOUS TO HAVE OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES RESOLVED. IF THIS SEEMS TO BE TAKING TOO LONG, I ASK YOU TO REMEMBER A COUPLE OF THINGS. THE PROBLEM OF INDIAN HUNTING AND FISHING RIGHTS GOES BACK TO THE TREATIES. ON THE ONE SIDE, WE HAVE HAD LEGISLATION LIKE THE MIGRATORY BIRDS CONVENTIONS ACT,

AND THE FISHERIES ACT WHICH LIMIT FISHING AND HUNTING FOR ALL CANADIANS, AND ON THE OTHER SIDE, THE TREATIES WHICH ARE SUPPOSED TO GUARANTEE INDIANS YEAR-ROUND FISHING ON UNOCCUPIED CROWN LAND. THERE NEVER HAS BEEN A RESOLUTION OF THE CONFUSION CAUSED BY THESE DIFFERING LAWS, AND INDIANS HAVE BEEN CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE. NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE CONFEDERATION, WE ARE ON THE VERGE OF AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK FOR RESOLVING THESE DIFFERENCES IN ONTARIO. IT WILL GIVE INDIANS, AFTER APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION, THE PROPER LEGAL BASE TO PURSUE TRADITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- IT WILL ESTABLISH AN INDIAN FISHING CONSERVATION OFFICER PROGRAM;

- IT WILL PROVIDE THE PROVINCE WITH THE MEANS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE BALANCE OF NATURE IS RESPECTED FOR THE GOOD OF ALL PEOPLE YET AT THE SAME TIME RESPECTING SPECIAL FISHING RIGHTS FOR INDIAN PEOPLE.

IF YOU HAVE HEARD ALL THIS BEFORE, AS I'M SURE MANY OF YOU HAVE, REMEMBER WHERE WE WERE BACK IN JANUARY. AT THAT TIME, MANY OF THE NON-INDIAN SPORTS AND COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN IN THE PROVINCE WERE PROTESTING AGAINST THE AGREEMENT. THROUGH THE TRIPARTITE PROCESS, THROUGH YOUR EFFORTS, THROUGH MR. POPE'S EFFORTS, MR. DEBANE'S AND MY OWN, WE'VE LARGELY TURNED THAT SITUATION FROM ONE OF HOSTILITY TO ONE OF UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT. I HAVE HAD MANY LETTERS FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE REVISED THEIR POSITIONS AFTER REPRESENTATIONS TO THEM. IF THAT ISN'T PROGRESS, IF THAT ISN'T MOVING FORWARD, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS. AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD. THE AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED, BUT WITH MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT, NOT MISUNDERSTANDING AND ANTAGONISM. THIS IS LARGELY A RESULT OF THE ONTARIO TRIPARTITE PROCESS OF WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN KEY PLAYERS.

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INDIAN COMMISSION OF ONTARIO ARE PRESENTLY UNDER REVIEW. ONE OF THE FIRST ITEMS ON OUR AGENDA WHEN THE TRIPARTITE COUNCIL NEXT GETS TOGETHER WILL BE TO DETERMINE THE BEST STRATEGY FOR ENSURING THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE TRIPARTITE PROCESS AND OF THE INDIAN COMMISSION OF ONTARIO. FOR IT IS CLEAR TO ME THAT ONE OF THE INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS WHICH MUST FLOW FROM THE OTTAWA CONSTITUTIONAL NEGOTIATIONS ARE ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE I.C.O. WHICH CAN FIND AND IMPLEMENT SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS SUCH AS INDIAN SOCIAL SERVICES, INDIAN POLICING AND INDIAN FISHING. NOR DO I BELIEVE WE CAN JUST STAND BY NOW AND HANG ONTO THE STATUS QUO UNTIL THE CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS AND THE REST OF THE COUNTRY CATCH UP WITH ONTARIO. WE MUST CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD. SUCCESS IS MUTUALLY REINFORCING. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO JUST DUMP ALL OUR PROBLEMS ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL TABLE.

REGARDING CLAIMS, ON MARCH 26, AN UNDERSTANDING ON THE SETTLEMENT OF A CLAIM FOR THE GARDEN RIVER BAND WAS MADE. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK CHIEF ARNOLD SOLOMON PERSONALLY FOR HIS POSITIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS WITH MY OFFICIALS. I UNDERSTAND THE SETTLEMENT WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE PARTIES IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SIGNING IT LATER THIS SUMMER.

AT THE END OF JUNE, DISCUSSIONS WILL BEGIN ON THE ATHABASKA CLAIM INVOLVING THE BIG GRASSY AND ONEGAMING BANDS ON LAKE OF THE WOODS.

I AM PLEASED TO CONFIRM THAT I HAVE ACCEPTED FOR NEGOTIATION ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA THE LONG LAKE 58 BAND CLAIM AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD AS WELL TO THE VALIDATION OF THE SIX NATIONS RAILWAY CLAIM.

LAST YEAR AT WHITE DOG THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REACHED A $1.5 MILLION SETTLEMENT WITH THE ISLINGTON BAND TO ASSIST IN THE PROCESS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION TO DEAL WITH THE DAMAGE THE BAND HAS SUFFERED. THERE IS NOW A NEW FEDERAL OFFER UNDER DISCUSSION WITH GRASSY NARROWS. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN SOME DIFFICULTIES IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PROVINCE, I AM HOPEFUL THAT ONTARIO WILL SOON BE ABLE TO FINALIZE AN AGREEMENT WITH WHITE DOG AND TURN ITS ATTENTION TO GRASSY NARROWS.

I AM GREATLY DISTURBED ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES WE ARE HAVING AT GETTING THE COMPANIES ORIGINALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE TO TALK WITH THE BANDS. I MUST STRESS TO REED AND GREAT LAKES FOREST PRODUCTS MY VIEW THAT THEY BEAR A MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PRESENT CONDITIONS IN GRASSY NARROWS AND WHITE DOG AND IT IS INCUMBENT ON THEM TO ENTER SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE BANDS.

I'D LIKE TO END THE PREPARED PART OF MY ADDRESS TO YOU TODAY ON A HAPPY NOTE BY EXTENDING MY CONGRATULATIONS TO TYLER SUNDAY FROM ST. REGIS WHO WON THE 1982 TOM LONGBOAT AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING INDAN ATHLETE IN CANADA; AND TO EVELYN WILLIAMS WHITEYES, ANOTHER ONTARIO RESIDENT WHO WAS THE 1982 WINNER OF THE OMER PETERS AWARD FOR ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION.

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NOTES PREPARED FOR

THE HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO, P.C., M.P.

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

FOR THE DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

ON THE MOTION TO RATIFY

THE CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD

OTTAWA, ONTARIO JUNE 29, 1983

Canada

MADAME SPEAKER, FELLOW PARLIAMENTARIANS, THE RESOLUTION BEFORE US TODAY IS THE CULMINATION OF A DIALOGUE THAT HAS BEEN GOING ON BETWEEN THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE OF CANADA AND POLITICAL LEADERS SINCE THE ROYAL PROCLAMATION OF 1763. IF THAT SEEMS TO OVERSTATE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A RESOLUTION THAT CALLS PRIMARILY FOR A CONTINUING DIALOGUE BETWEEN NATIVE LEADERS AND FIRST MINISTERS, I ASK YOU TO REMEMBER THE NATURE OF OUR HISTORIC RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIAN AND INUIT PEOPLE IN CANADA.

BEFORE CONFEDERATION, CANADIANS WERE ENGAGED IN A PURPOSEFUL SEARCH FOR IDENTITY AS FOUNDING MEMBERS OF A NEW ORDER IN AN UNFAMILIAR LAND. THE PREOCCUPATIONS OF THE DAY INVOLVED WAR, SURVIVAL, WILDERNESS, AND DISEASE. CHALLENGES WERE MET HEAD-ON AND DEALT WITH DIRECTLY. ALL THE WHILE THE PROMISE OF PEACE AND PLENTY WAS LIKE A POWERFUL MAGNET DRAWING UPPER AND LOWER CANADIANS INTO THE 20th CENTURY.

IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT, AND WITH STRONG MOMENTUM THAT CANADIANS FACED AND RESOLVED THE GREAT ISSUES OF THE DAY. WHEN IT CAME TO CREATING A NEW DOMINION, LINKING ITS REGIONS BY RAIL OR FASHIONING TIES BETWEEN CULTURES, CANADIANS DID WHAT I TRUST WE WILL ALWAYS DO...THE BEST WE CAN IN OUR TIME.

IN THE 18th AND 19th CENTURIES ABORIGINAL PEOPLES AND THE NEW SETTLERS TRIED TO FIND SOME REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN THEIR VARIOUS NEEDS AND THE CONTENDING FORCES. NATIVE PEOPLE WERE OFTEN DISPLACED FROM ONE PART OF THE COUNTRY TO THE NEXT. TREATY ARRANGEMENTS WERE STRUCK ON AN AS NEEDED, AD HOC BASIS, SOME OF THEM BEFORE CONFEDERATION, THE MAJORITY AFTER. INDIAN/NON-INDIAN RELATIONS WERE CHARACTERIZED BY A WHOLE SET OF SPECIAL SOMETIMES CONTRADICTORY LEGAL ARRANGEMENTS. IT WAS A COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT SITUATION, SOME VESTIGES OF WHICH LINGER WITH US TO THIS DAY.

AND YET, OUT OF THAT SAME PROCESS CAME CERTAIN PROVISIONS AND PROTECTIONS FOR INDIAN PEOPLE. TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY YEARS LATER CONTEMPORARY INDIAN PEOPLE STILL RECITE THE RECOGNITION OF THEIR UNIQUENESS IN THE ROYAL PROCLAMATION OF 1763 AS A BASIS FOR NEW ARRANGEMENTS. THE CONSTITUTION ACT OF 1867 RECOGNIZED A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARLIAMENT AND ABORIGINAL PEOPLE WHICH THEY CHERISH TO THIS DAY. SIGNIFICANTLY, THIS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP DESCRIBED IN SECTION 91(24) OF OUR FIRST CONSTITUTION FORMS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE ACCORD SIGNED AT THE CLOSE OF THE CONFERENCE IN MARCH.

THIS OPEN DOOR TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS THE BASIS FOR CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH MY FEDERAL COLLEAGUES AND ME IN PARALLEL WITH THE ONGOING CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS. INDIAN PEOPLE HAVE INSISTED UPON THIS FORM OF INSURANCE BASED ON MANY DECADES OF EXPERIENCE.

AS I SUGGESTED EARLIER, THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL ARRANGEMENTS WE STRUCK IN THE PAST - THOSE WHICH FOUND EXPRESSION IN THE ROYAL PROCLAMATION AND THE CONSTITUTION ACT AS IT WAS PROCLAIMED IN THE LAST CENTURY - STILL SERVE US WELL IN THE PRESENT.

ONCE AGAIN, THE FUTURE RESTS ON CANADIANS DOING THE BEST THEY CAN IN THEIR TIME...ONLY NOW, WE ALL HAVE MORE EXPERIENCE. IN THE 1980s THERE ARE STILL OTHER PRIORITIES. WE HAVE EXPLORED THE WILDERNESS, BUILT THE RAILWAYS AND OVERCOME MOST OF THE DISEASES THAT PLAGUED THE PIONEERS. THE CENTURIES HAVE SEEN THESE CHALLENGES REPLACED BY OTHERS.

BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED AS A RESULT OF THE MARCH CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE THAT SHOULD INSPIRE NEW HOPE. BY ESTABLISHING AN ONGOING PROCESS OF THREE SIMILAR FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCES OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WE HAVE ENSURED THAT THE CONCERNS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE ARE AT THE TOP OF THE NATIONAL AGENDA. THAT FACT ALONE SHOULD MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE TO THE WAY WE PROCEED THIS TIME.

THE FOCUS FOR THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS HAS SINCE 1867 BEEN THE PARLIAMENT OF CANADA. IT HAS TAKEN MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED YEARS FOR THE LEADERS OF THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLES AND THE ELECTED LEADERS OF CANADA TO SIT DOWN IN ONE ROOM TOGETHER AND TALK OPENLY, FACE-TO-FACE. IN A HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN YEARS, THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED. WE HAVE NEVER RESPONDED IN SUCH A WAY TO AN AGENDA DEVISED BY NATIVE PEOPLE, FIRST MINISTERS AND NATIVE LEADERS HAVE NEVER TALKED IN A COLLECTED WAY ACROSS ONE TABLE AS COMMON CITIZENS OF ONE COUNTRY.

THOSE ARE BUT SOME OF THE REASONS WHY I FEEL THIS HOUSE MUST SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION THAT IS BEFORE IT IN THIS DEBATE. IT IS A MOMENTOUS DEBATE. WHEN THE PARLIAMENT OF CANADA AND THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES RATIFY THIS RESOLUTION UNDER THE CONSTITUTION, A NEW DIALOGUE WILL BEGIN. IT WILL BE ONE THAT IS BASED ON AN ATTACHMENT TO THIS NATION AND ALL THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE. THAT IS WHAT THE NEXT THREE CONFERENCES WILL BE ABOUT. WITH THIS RESOLUTION, WE CAN BEGIN TO FASHION A NEW SORT OF FUTURE.

IT WILL BE BASED ON HOW WE CANADIANS, INDIAN AND NON-INDIAN, PERCEIVE PROBLEMS AND POSSIBLE RESOLUTIONS. IT BEGINS WITH THE ACCORD WHICH ENSURES THAT NATIVE LEADERS WILL PARTICIPATE WITH THE FIRST MINISTERS IN A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE BEFORE ANY AMENDMENTS ARE MADE TO THOSE PARTS OF THE CONSTITUTION DEALING EXCLUSIVELY WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLES. THIS IS NOT A FORMAL CONSENT CLAUSE, BUT IT GIVES ABORIGINAL PEOPLES A UNIQUE AND PERMANENT POLITICAL SAY IN CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE OF SPECIAL CONCERN TO THEM.

THE ACCORD ALSO GIVES PAST AND FUTURE LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENTS A NEW STATUS AND SECURITY, BY INCLUDING THEM AMONG THE "TREATY RIGHTS" RECOGNIZED AND AFFIRMED IN THE CONSTITUTION. THIS SHOULD YIELD A GREATER INCENTIVE FOR EARLY RESOLUTION OF MANY OF THE OUTSTANDING LAND AND RELATED CLAIMS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES.

IN ADDITION, THE CONSTITUTION WILL BE AMENDED TO ENSURE THAT THE ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS ARE AFFIRMED EQUALLY FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, WE HAVE ESTABLISHED NEGOTIATION ON A NATIONAL LEVEL AS THE WAY TO DECIDE ON RELATIONSHIPS AND RIGHTS.

THIS TIME DISCUSSIONS WILL BE BASED ON REAL NEGOTIATION...NOT JUST CONSULTATION; NOT MEDIATION; BUT A PROCESS OF FREE AND OPEN DISCUSSION AMONG PARTIES, EACH OF WHOM HAS SOMETHING TO OFFER AND SOMETHING TO GAIN.

THE ACCORD WAS SIGNED BECAUSE ALL THE PARTIES (INCLUDING QUEBEC, EVEN IF THAT PROVINCE DID NOT SIGN) FOUND COMMON GROUND. THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE EVERYONE SAID WHAT THEY THOUGHT IN A SPIRIT OF RESPECT, AND WITH A GENUINE DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND AND REACH AN ACCOMMODATION. THE ACCORD, THEN, REPRESENTS NOT ONLY AGREEMENT ON CERTAIN SPECIFICS; IT IS A POWERFUL SYMBOL OF A NEW MODE OF OPEN NEGOTIATION BETWEEN ABORIGINAL PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS. SECONDLY, IT HAS BECOME A SKETCH OF WHERE WE CAN EXPECT FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS TO TAKE US.

ONE OF THOSE DIRECTIONS IS THE ISSUE OF ABORIGINAL SELF-GOVERNMENT. IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS AT THE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE, THE PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT ISSUES CONCERNING ABORIGINAL GOVERNMENT ARE "THE HEART OF THE MATTER, THE CRUX OF OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES". HE ALSO SAID THAT BETWEEN THE UNACCEPTABLE EXTREMES OF ASSIMILATION OR ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY THERE IS A BROAD RANGE OF NEGOTIABLE POSSIBILITIES. THESE COULD YIELD VARIOUS FORMS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT.

I SEE THIS IN MY ROLE AS MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT ON A DAILY BASIS. BETWEEN THE EXTREMES MOST NATIVE GROUPS ARE STRUGGLING TO HAMMER OUT A FORM OF LOCAL CONTROL BASED ON ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INDEPENDENCE.

I SEE THIS ON THE LEVEL OF SOCIAL SERVICES WHERE IN MANITOBA, NEW BRUNSWICK AND ALBERTA, BAND COUNCILS ARE ASSUMING CONTROL OF CHILD WELFARE. IN THESE PROVINCES, FOR THE FIRST TIME, BANDS WILL RECEIVE CHILD WELFARE SERVICES EQUAL TO THOSE OFFERED TO OTHER CITIZENS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE PROVINCES.

I SEE THIS ON THE LEVEL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WHERE BAND COUNCILS ARE COMING FORWARD AND SAYING THEY WANT THE MEANS WITH WHICH TO BECOME ECONOMICALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT. THEY ARE SAYING THEY WANT THE MEANS WITH WHICH TO REDUCE OUR WELFARE ROLLS. THIS IS INVOLVING DIFFICULT NEW BILATERAL AND TRIPARTITE NEGOTIATIONS. BUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE OLD AND THE NEW IS CLEAR. INDIANS ARE MOVING TOWARDS CONTROLLING THEIR ECONOMIC DESTINIES INSTEAD OF BEING CONTROLLED.

I SEE THE STRUGGLE FOR CONTROL OF INDIVIDUAL DESTINIES ON THE LEVEL OF INDIAN POLICING AND EDUCATION.

THE STRENGTH AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE INDIAN AND INUIT CULTURAL MOVEMENT IS, ALSO, REFLECTED AT THE GRASS ROOTS LEVEL. THIS RESOLUTION, BY THE WAY, ACKNOWLEDGES THE CULTURAL DISTINCTIVENESS AND DIVERSITY OF CANADA'S ABORIGINAL PEOPLES. IT DEMONSTRATES AN AWARENESS THAT ABORIGINAL LIFESTYLES, LANGUAGES AND CUSTOMS WILL HAVE TO BE PROTECTED.

THE CONSTITUTION IS THE FOCUS OF PARLIAMENT'S ATTENTION TODAY AND SO IT SHOULD BE FOR IT IS ALSO THE FOCUS OF INDIAN AND INUIT ASPIRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THOSE ASPIRATIONS DEPEND ON MORE THAN SUCCESS AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL TABLE. I HAVE TRIED HERE TO OUTLINE SOME OF THE DIMENSIONS OF THOSE ASPIRATIONS THAT I SEE AS MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT. IN THE LONG RUN, IT WILL MEAN, IF WE CONTINUE TO SUCCEED, A NEW <u>INDIAN ACT.</u>

I DON'T PROPOSE TO SPECULATE HERE EXACTLY HOW THE ACT WILL BE CHANGED BUT IF NATIVE COMMUNITIES IN CANADA ARE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH NEW EFFECTIVE POWERS TO PLAN, INITIATE AND DELIVER PROGRAMS RESPONSIVE TO THEIR NEEDS, THEN SOME OF THE OLD RELATIONSHIPS WILL ALSO HAVE TO CHANGE.

THIS IS ONE DIMENSION OF THE PROBLEM THAT CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCES AND NATIVE NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WILL HAVE TO STRUGGLE WITH IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THAT WILL BE A CHALLENGE EVERY BIT AS DIFFICULT AS THE ONE WE HAVE JUST BEEN THROUGH. I TRUST THAT THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INDIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT WILL BE A KEY RESOURCE IN HELPING US ARRIVE AT SOME ANSWERS TO THE KIND OF CHANGES WE WILL WANT TO SEE HAPPEN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I TRUST THIS COMMITTEE, ESTABLISHED IN A CLIMATE OF NON-PARTISAN AGREEMENT, WITH UNPRECEDENTED LATITUDE IN ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE, WILL BE A MAJOR ASSET IN OUR SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT DIRECTION I CAN SEE FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS TAKING IS THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE PROVINCES AND THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS. THE CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS INTRODUCE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A FORMAL AND FUNDAMENTAL WAY OTHER CANADIAN LEADERS TO THE DEVELOPING RELATIONS BETWEEN ABORIGINAL PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENT. WHILE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL ALWAYS HAVE A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIAN AND INUIT PEOPLE, IT HAD BECOME CLEAR THAT THE PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES SHOULD JOIN IN THE DEBATE. NOW, THEY HAVE. THIS IS A KEY ELEMENT IN MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM TOWARDS REFORMING THE SYSTEM THAT WE PRESENTLY HAVE. FOR WE ARE AT A CRUCIAL PERIOD IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CANADIAN NATIVE COMMUNITIES. NEVER HAS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR INNOVATIVE REFORM BEEN SO PROPICIOUS. THIS IS THE MESSAGE THAT I HAVE BEEN CARRYING TO INDIAN AND INUIT LEADERS IN MY CAPACITY AS MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT.

WE HAVE THE SPIRIT FOR CONSTRUCTIVE CHANGE COMING FROM SO MANY DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS, FROM NATIVE COMMUNITIES, FROM NATIVE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND FROM PARLIAMENT.

IF YOU REMEMBER, WHEN I ASKED PARLIAMENT ON AUGUST 4, 1982 TO CREATE THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INDIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT, THERE WAS ALL-PARTY AGREEMENT. THIS IS NOT A PHENOMENON WE SEE EVERY DAY.

I BELIEVE THAT THE SAME NON-PARTISAN SPIRIT IS HERE TODAY. I BELIEVE THAT WE WILL FIND NEW, WORKABLE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CANADIAN NATIVE PEOPLE AND THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS THAT NEW RELATIONSHIP IS TO RATIFY THE ACCORD AGREED UPON AT THE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE. I ASK YOU TO DO THAT TODAY.

WE ARE ON THE THRESHOLD OF A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO ACT LIKE CANADIANS IN THE FACE OF YET ANOTHER CHALLENGE... THAT IS, TO DO THE BEST WE CAN FOR OUR TIME. WE HAVE EXPERIENCE, WE HAVE COMMITMENT, WE HAVE A WORKABLE PROCESS AND WE HAVE, FOR ONCE, ACCORDED ABORIGINAL PEOPLES THE PRIORITY REQUIRED TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES.

OPPORTUNITIES LIKE THE ONE BEFORE US TODAY ARISE ONLY OCCASIONALLY IN THE LIVES OF MEN. PLEASE JOIN ME IN MAKING THE BEST OF IT.

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NOTES FOR REMARKS BY

THE HON. JOHN C. MUNRO, P.C., M.P.

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

AT THE THIRD INUIT

CIRCUMPOLAR CONFERENCE

FROBISHER BAY, NWT

JULY 28, 1983



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

nada

RINGS VERY TRUE TO ME AS A SUMMATION OF BOTH THE ISSUES THEMSELVES AND THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WE MUST ALL BRING TO OUR ATTEMPTS TO DEAL WITH THEM. YOUR DELIBERATIONS, AND THOSE OF THE INUIT ELDERS WHO ARE CONCURRENTLY PARTICIPATING IN THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL INUIT ELDERS' CONFERENCE, ARE SETTING SOME USEFUL BENCHMARKS AGAINST WHICH WE SHOULD ALL BE EXAMINING OUR FUTURE EFFORTS.

I THINK IT IS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE THAT YOUR ACHIEVEMENT IS PROVIDING A SHOWCASE FOR THE EQUALLY INNOVATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE INUIT BROADCASTING CORPORATION AND THE TELIDON PROJECT. IBC'S WORK AS THE CONFERENCE'S HOST BROADCASTER IS SHOWING A WIDER-THAN-USUAL WORLD THE LEADERSHIP THEY HAVE TAKEN IN THE IMPORTANT TASK OF COMMUNICATING AMONG NATIVE PEOPLES ON NATIVE TERMS. TELIDON HAS KICKED OFF A MONTH-LONG DEMONSTRATION HERE OF ITS VERSATILITY AND POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNICATING VAST AMOUNTS OF DIVERSE INFORMATION, IN A GREAT VARIETY OF LANGUAGES AND EVEN OF ALPHABETS. AS A RESULT, THIS CONFERENCE IS ALSO SERVING AS ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING EVENTS COMMEMORATING INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS YEAR.

THIS INTERNATIONAL GATHERING ALSO BRINGS ME TO REFLECT ON THIS YEAR'S CENTENARY OF THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR. FROM AUGUST 1882 TO SEPTEMBER 1883 FIFTEEN EXPEDITIONS, SPONSORED BY ELEVEN NATIONS INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES AND DENMARK, CAME TO THE ARCTIC TO CARRY OUT A CAREFULLY COORDINATED RESEARCH PROGRAM. IT WAS THE FIRST MAJOR RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR ALL COUNTRIES TO COOPERATE AND COMMUNICATE ON THE SCIENTIFIC LEVEL. AND WHEN THE SCIENTISTS ARRIVED IN THE NORTH, THEY FOUND YOUR ANCESTORS READY TO GIVE THEM WHAT THEY LATER REPORTED WAS INVALUABLE HELP.

TO MARK THIS VERY IMPORTANT CENTENARY I HAVE NOW APPROVED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL ANNUAL AWARD TO BE GIVEN FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN NORTHERN SCIENCE, PARTICULARLY FOR RESEARCH-RELATED ACTIVITY THAT BENEFITS NORTHERN PEOPLE. IT IS PART OF MY COMMITMENT TO FOSTER THE GROWTH OF NORTHERN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH.

THE INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR CONFERENCE LAST MET IN NUUK IN 1980, SHORTLY AFTER I WAS APPOINTED MINISTER OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS. THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THAT MEETING RAISED ISSUES THAT ARE, AS YOU KNOW, OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO ME AND MY DEPARTMENT - SUCH ISSUES

AS POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, LANGUAGE AND CULTURE, AND INUIT RIGHTS.

NOW, IN THIS THIRD ICC MEETING, THE FIRST THAT I HAVE ATTENDED, YOU ARE DEVELOPING THOSE THEMES AND WORKING TO FORMULATE A CIRCUMPOLAR ARCTIC POLICY. THE CONFERENCE TITLE, "THE ARCTIC: OUR COMMON RESPONSIBILITY", IS VERY TIMELY INDEED, SINCE FROM MY POINT OF VIEW IT EXPRESSES THE APPROACH THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN TAKING WITH NORTHERN RESIDENTS AND THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS. TOGETHER WE ARE REACHING TOWARD BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF THE CANADIAN ARCTIC AND SEEKING TO ESTABLISH A MORE EQUITABLE AND STABLE POLITICAL FUTURE FOR THE ARCTIC COMMUNITIES.

CO-OP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

BEFORE DESCRIBING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S NORTHERN POLICY IN MORE DETAIL, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY, SINCE MANY OF YOU HERE ARE MEMBERS OF CO-OPERATIVES, TO ANNOUNCE OUR RECENT DECISION TO FUND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT, PRODUCTION AND MARKETING SYSTEMS FOR THE INUIT CO-OPS IN ARCTIC QUEBEC AND THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. THIS FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM RECOGNIZES THAT CO-OPS ARE A STRONG FORCE FOR ECONOMIC

AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH AND TESTIFIES TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ON-GOING COMMITMENT TO A MOVEMENT WHICH WILL SOON MARK ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE ARCTIC.

THERE ARE TWO MAIN ELEMENTS TO THE PROGRAM I WISH TO ANNOUNCE TODAY:

THE FIRST CONSISTS OF $6 MILLION WHICH WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE TRAINING OF NATIVE CO-OP MANAGERS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT CONTROL AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN THE NWT. FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF THESE FEATURES IS SEEN AS CRUCIAL TO THE FUTURE OF THE CO-OPERATIVE SYSTEM.

THE SECOND ELEMENT WILL BE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW PRODUCTION AND MARKETING STRATEGIES FOR INUIT ARTS AND CRAFTS IN THE NWT AND ARCTIC QUEBEC. THIS INITIATIVE WILL BE SUPPORTED BY CONTRIBUTIONS OF UP TO $2,155,000.

THE MARKET FOR THESE PRODUCTS, FROM WHICH INUIT DERIVE A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THEIR EARNED INCOME, HAS SOFTENED OVER RECENT YEARS, MAKING THE RATIONALIZATION OF THE PRODUCTION/MARKETING SYSTEM A PRIORITY. I AM CONFIDENT THIS WILL HELP THE CO-OPS AND THEIR FEDERATIONS TO ADDRESS THIS IMMEDIATE NEED.

THE PRODUCTION AND IMPORT OF IMITATION INUIT ART IS ANOTHER PROBLEM RELATED TO INUIT ART MARKETING. THE ARCTIC CO-OPS AND ITC HAVE URGED MY GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT IT. ITC'S REPORT ON THIS MATTER WAS FUNDED BY DIAND AND IS CURRENTLY BEING EXAMINED BY THE TUNGAUIK FEDERATION OF NUNAVUT AND BY THE GOVERNMENT'S LEGAL ADVISORS. I EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO RECOMMEND ACTION ONCE THESE REVIEWS ARE COMPLETED.

FEDERAL NORTHERN POLICY

AS CANADA PROCEEDS INTO THE 1980'S WE ARE FINDING THAT THE NORTH'S POLITICAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ARE INCREASINGLY COMPLEX AND MUST BE REDEFINED. MORE AND MORE, IT TAKES COOPERATION AND PLANNING IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE SOLUTIONS.

MUCH HAS HAPPENED SINCE 1972, WHEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FIRST PUT FORWARD A COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT OUTLINING ITS POLICY ON NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT. BUT THE PRIMARY ELEMENTS ARE STILL RELEVANT TODAY AND WILL, I EXPECT, SERVE AS A GUIDE TO THE SOLUTION OF THESE NORTHERN PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES DURING THE REMAINDER OF THIS DECADE. LET ME REITERATE THESE ELEMENTS.

1. THE NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF NORTHERNERS AND THE MAINTENANCE OF THE NORTH'S ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MUST BE THE PRIME CONSIDERATION IN CHARTING THE COURSE OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH'S RENEWABLE AND NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES SHOULD PROCEED AS TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMICS PERMIT, IN ORDER TO MEET THE NATION'S RESOURCE NEEDS AND TO EXPAND THE REGIONAL ECONOMIES OF THE TERRITORIES. BUT THEIR DEVELOPMENT MUST BE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND AND RESULT IN NET BENEFIT FOR NORTHERN RESIDENTS.

3. THE NORTH'S PEOPLE MUST BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MAINSTREAM OF THE NATION'S ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LIFE. ACHIEVING THIS REQUIRES A JUST SETTLEMENT OF NATIVE LAND CLAIMS AND GREATER POLITICAL AUTONOMY FOR THE TERRITORIES.

IN MY MIND, THE KEY TO ACHIEVING THESE OBJECTIVES IS MAINTAINING A PROPER BALANCE IN THE PACING AND TIMING OF ACTIVITIES IN ALL SECTORS. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, CANNOT PROCEED VERY FAR WITHOUT A JUST SETTLEMENT OF NATIVE CLAIMS.

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

HERE IN CANADA, A SIGNIFICANT TURNING POINT FOR THE RIGHTS OF INUIT AND OTHER ABORIGINAL PEOPLES CAME IN APRIL OF LAST YEAR WITH THE FORMAL PROCLAMATION OF THE CONSTITUTION ACT, 1982. FOLLOWING ALL-PARTY AGREEMENT DURING THE FINAL STAGES OF DEBATE, A NUMBER OF SECTIONS WERE ADDED TO CANADA'S CONSTITUTION. THEY WERE DESIGNED TO RECOGNIZE AND AFFIRM EXISTING ABORIGINAL RIGHTS (SECTION 35) AND TO ENSURE THAT THESE RIGHTS ARE ELABORATED UPON AND CLARIFIED THROUGH A LATER PROCESS (SECTION 37(2)) INVOLVING FIRST MINISTERS, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES.

THE MARCH 1983 CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA, WHICH MANY OF YOU IN GREENLAND AND ALASKA FOLLOWED WITH GREAT INTEREST, REPRESENTED THE FIRST STEP IN THIS PROCESS.

THE CONFERENCE WAS, IN MY OPINION, THE CULMINATION OF MUCH OF THE WORK THAT THE INUIT HAVE DONE AND REPRESENTS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW PERIOD OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE INUIT OF CANADA.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDED: AGREEMENT ON AT LEAST THREE MORE FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCES; COMMITMENT TO NATIVE PARTICIPATION IN CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS DEALING WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLE; AGREEMENT THAT ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS WILL BE GUARANTEED EQUALLY TO MEN AND WOMEN, AND THAT RIGHTS ACQUIRED THROUGH EXISTING AND FUTURE LAND CLAIMS SETTLEMENTS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AND AFFIRMED.

THESE SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS DEMONSTRATE, BOTH HERE AND TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, CANADA'S COMMITMENT TO SECURING A SPECIAL PLACE FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN CONFEDERATION.

FOR CANADIAN INUIT, THAT PROCESS IS ONLY ONE OF A NUMBER NOW UNDERWAY. IN NOVEMBER OF 1982 I ANNOUNCED HOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SEES RESPONSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT EVOLVING IN THE NORTH.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED, IN PRINCIPLE, DIVISION OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, HOME TO THE MAJORITY OF CANADA'S INUIT. THIS DECISION WAS MADE IN RECOGNITION OF THE LONG-STANDING ASPIRATIONS OF BOTH NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE NORTHERNERS. PARTICULARLY HERE IN THE EASTERN ARCTIC, WHERE THE DISTANCES FROM YELLOWKNIFE ARE SO

VAST, AND WHERE THE PROPOSAL TO CREATE NUNAVUT IS CURRENTLY BEING DISCUSSED, THERE IS CLEARLY A NEED TO BRING PUBLIC GOVERNMENT CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITIES.

FEDERAL WILLINGNESS TO DIVIDE THE NWT WILL BE DEPENDENT UPON CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR DIVISION BY A MAJORITY OF ITS RESIDENTS. OTHER NECESSARY PRECONDITIONS TO DIVISION INCLUDE THE RESOLUTION OF NATIVE LAND CLAIMS AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF CONSENSUS AMONG NORTHERNERS ON THE LOCATION OF BOUNDARIES AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS BETWEEN TERRITORIAL, REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

SINCE NOVEMBER THE EASTERN AND WESTERN FORUMS OF THE NWT CONSTITUTIONAL ALLIANCE HAVE BEEN BUILDING TOWARD CONSENSUS ON THESE MATTERS. THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT HAS PARTICIPATED FULLY IN THESE EFFORTS, AND FOR MY PART, I AM REASSURED THAT WE ARE AT LAST ON THE PATH TOWARD A FUTURE THAT THE PEOPLE OF THIS TERRITORY WANT FOR THEMSELVES.

IN THE MEANTIME WE CONTINUE TO PROGRESS CAREFULLY, BUT WITH DETERMINATION, TOWARD THE GOAL OF MORE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN THE NWT. ALREADY, RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NWT HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND IN MAY I ANNOUNCED THAT THE APPOINTED POSITION OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE NWT WOULD DISAPPEAR AFTER THE NEXT TERRITORIAL ELECTIONS.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

VARIOUS GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO PROTECT AND MANAGE THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS. HERE I REFER TO LEGISLATION SUCH AS THE NORTHERN INLAND WATERS ACT, THE ARCTIC WATERS POLLUTION PREVENTION REGULATIONS AND THE TERRITORIAL LAND USE REGULATIONS. AS WELL, THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW PROCESS AND NEW AGENCIES SUCH AS THE TERRITORIAL WATER BOARDS WERE ESTABLISHED.

GROWING COMPETITION FOR LAND FOR RESOURCE EXPLORATION, CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND LAND CLAIMS MAKE INCREASED PLANNING AND COOPERATION AMONGST ALL PARTIES IMPERATIVE. IT IS THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED MAINTENANCE AND PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF THE

RESOURCE BASE. THIS IS AN OBJECTIVE THAT IS SHARED BY GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE CIRCUMPOLAR NORTH.

WE ARE ALSO FACED WITH INCREASING INTERNATIONAL CONCERN ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ON THE QUALITY OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN CANADA'S SHARE OF THE ARCTIC. ANOTHER CONCERN IS THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL REGIME PROVIDE A MEANINGFUL ROLE FOR NORTHERNERS AND THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND, FURTHER, THAT IT REMAIN COGNIZANT OF NORTHERNERS' NEEDS, INTERESTS AND EXPECTATIONS.

IN THIS REGARD, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NOT BEEN IDLE.

IN JULY 1981 CABINET GAVE APPROVAL TO THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A LAND USE PLANNING PROCESS FOR NORTHERN CANADA. THIS PROGRAM IS CURRENTLY BEING PUT INTO PLACE IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE GNWT AND NATIVE ORGANIZATIONS. ONCE ESTABLISHED, IT WILL PROVIDE A BASIS FOR RATIONAL AND ORDERLY DECISION-MAKING AND DEVELOPMENT.

IN ANTICIPATION OF NORTHERN HYDROCARBON PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE, THE FEDERAL

GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY PUT INTO PLACE A PHASED STRATEGY FOR HYDROCARBON DEVELOPMENT AND A CO-ORDINATED FIVE-YEAR SOCIO-ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, POLICY, PLANNING AND RESEARCH PROGRAM.

THE CANADA OIL AND GAS LANDS ACT CALLS FOR SPECIFIC STUDIES AND DATA COLLECTION PROGRAMS. UNDER THIS LEGISLATION, THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES REVOLVING FUND PROVIDES FOR THE EXAMINATION OF ISSUES OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL OR SOCIAL NATURE RELATING TO OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT. A WIDE RANGE OF AGENCIES AND ASSOCIATIONS ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FUNDING FOR SUCH STUDIES.

FINALLY, MY DEPARTMENT HAS UNDERTAKEN TO DEVELOP, IN CONCERT WITH NORTHERNERS, A COMPREHENSIVE NORTHERN CONSERVATION POLICY, TOGETHER WITH A STRATEGY FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION. ACHIEVING BALANCED DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES THAT ECONOMIC ACTIVITY BE PURSUED IN CONCERT WITH SOUND PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. THIS WAS THE VIEW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED WHEN WE ENDORSED THE WORLD CONSERVATION STRATEGY, AND IT IS A VIEW THAT UNDERLIES OUR CURRENT CONSERVATION EFFORTS.

NATIVE CLAIMS

THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN CANADA ARE FULLY AWARE THAT COMPREHENSIVE LAND CLAIM SETTLEMENTS CAN OFFER THEM ONE OF THEIR BEST CHANCES TO INFLUENCE AND PARTICIPATE IN DEVELOPMENT IN THEIR HOMELAND.

AT THE BEGINNING OF MY MANDATE I ACTIVELY REVIEWED OUR POLICIES REGARDING NATIVE LAND CLAIMS. THIS WORK, WHICH DEMONSTRATED MY DEEP COMMITMENT TO THE RESOLUTION OF COMPREHENSIVE CLAIMS, LED TO A REAFFIRMATION AND CLARIFICATION OF THE POLICIES AFFECTING CLAIMS SUBMITTED BY INUIT LEADERS.

THE INUIT CLAIM IN THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN ARCTIC, ORIGINALLY PRESENTED BY THE INUIT TAPIRISAT OF CANADA (ITC) IN 1976, AND NOW BEING NEGOTIATED BY THE TUNGAVIK FEDERATION OF NUNAVUT (TFN), IS PROCEEDING WITH VIGOUR. AN AGREEMENT ON WILDLIFE HARVESTING RIGHTS AND MANAGEMENT WAS INITIALLED IN OCTOBER 1981. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ALSO CONTINUED IN THE AREAS OF LAND AND RESOURCES, WITH AGREEMENTS INITIALLED IN CAMBRIDGE BAY IN APRIL 1983 ON THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF LAND SELECTION. INTENSIVE NEGOTIATING SESSIONS ARE TO CONTINUE, AND THE

GOVERNMENT REMAINS OPTIMISTIC THAT AN OVERALL AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE CAN BE REACHED WITHIN A YEAR.

FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD A FINAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMITTEE FOR ORIGINAL PEOPLES' ENTITLEMENT (COPE) COMMENCED ON JANUARY 20, 1983. EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION AND CLARIFICATION HAVE PRODUCED SUBSTANTIAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE RESPECTIVE POSITIONS OF COPE AND THE GOVERNMENT ON THE MAIN ISSUES.

MANY ELEMENTS OF NATIVE CLAIMS IN SOUTHERN CANADA FALL UNDER PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION. NEGOTIATIONS IN THESE AREAS, THEREFORE, DEPEND LARGELY ON PROVINCIAL POLICIES AND POSITIONS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND ARE NOW IDENTIFYING THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH GOVERNMENT IN RESPECT OF THE PENDING NEGOTIATION OF THE INUIT CLAIM IN LABRADOR. THE JAMES BAY AND NORTHERN QUEBEC AGREEMENT SIGNED IN 1975 WAS REVIEWED AS A RESULT OF NATIVE GRIEVANCES, AND AGREEMENT WAS REACHED LAST JULY ON WAYS TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES IN IMPLEMENTATION.

THE OUTLOOK FOR A FULL AND SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION OF COMPREHENSIVE CLAIMS IN THE NORTH, THEN, IS EXTREMELY ENCOURAGING.

NORTHERN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR THE NORTH ARE INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VIABLE AND BALANCED NORTHERN ECONOMY WHILE ENSURING THAT THE NORTH CONTRIBUTES TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY. WE WORK CLOSELY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NWT TO PROMOTE THIS OBJECTIVE. WE ALSO WORK HARD TO ENSURE THAT NORTHERNERS THEMSELVES BENEFIT FROM NORTHERN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.

UNDER THE CANADA OIL AND GAS ACT, COMPANIES ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT CANADA BENEFITS PACKAGES, WHICH ENSURE THAT BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM ACTIVITIES ON CANADA LANDS ARE AVAILABLE TO CANADIANS. OIL AND GAS ACTIVITY NORTH OF 60° MUST PROVIDE SUCH NORTHERN BENEFITS AS AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS, ENCOURAGEMENT OF NORTHERN BUSINESS, CONSIDERATION OF TRADITIONAL SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STANDARDS, AND PROTECTION OF TRADITIONAL RESOURCE-HARVESTING ACTIVITIES.

NORTHERN MINING PROJECTS ARE SUBJECT TO A REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS THAT INCLUDES AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PROJECT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES. AFTER APPROVAL, MINES OPERATE ACCORDING TO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING THAT SPECIFIES ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN TO ENSURE BENEFITS ACCRUE TO NORTHERNERS. SUCH MEMORANDA GOVERN THE OPERATION OF THE NANISIVIK AND POLARIS MINES HERE IN THE EASTERN ARCTIC.

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA HAS RECENTLY ADOPTED A NEW FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT PROCESS. THE FIRST EDA WAS SIGNED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES IN DECEMBER OF 1982. PROGRAMMING UNDER THIS AGREEMENT HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE A BALANCE BETWEEN WAGE EMPLOYMENT AND ACTIVITIES IN THE RENEWABLE RESOURCE SECTOR. ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTER-SETTLEMENT TRADE AND RENEWABLE RESOURCE HARVESTING, TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF SKILL LEVELS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF FRONTIER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND TO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE NORTHERN BUSINESS SECTOR. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT FUNDING FOR PROJECTS UNDER EDA SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENT PROGRAMS WILL BE AVAILABLE BY LATE SUMMER, AND A TOTAL

OF OVER $21 MILLION OVER A FOUR-YEAR PERIOD HAS BEEN SET ASIDE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

THE INUIT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CONSISTS OF A PACKAGE OF DIRECT LOANS, BANK LOAN GUARANTEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE USE OF INUIT ENTREPRENEURS, CO-OPERATIVES AND CORPORATIONS. IT HAS PROVIDED FINANCING FOR A WIDE RANGE OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES, BOTH LOCAL AND REGIONAL IN SCOPE.

FINALLY, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED PLANS TO ADMINISTER THE $345 MILLION NATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE A MAJOR STIMULUS TO NATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACROSS CANADA. INUIT ORGANIZATIONS ARE CURRENTLY BEING CONSULTED ABOUT INUIT REPRESENTATION ON THE ADVISORY BOARD AND YOU CAN BE ASSURED OF OUR COMMITMENT TO SEE THAT INUIT IN LABRADOR, NORTHERN QUÉBEC AND THE NWT HAVE FULL ACCESS TO THIS PROGRAM.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF USEFUL DEBATE IN NORTHERN NATIVE GROUPS ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF NATIVE PARTICIPATION IN NORTHERN NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT. OUR POLICY HAS BEEN TO RESPOND POSITIVELY, WITH TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT, TO NATIVE-BASED INITIATIVES THAT ARE

DESIGNED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DEVELOPMENT-RELATED OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPERIENCE, TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT AND, OF COURSE, PROFIT. THE JOINT VENTURE DRILLING COMPANY LAUNCHED AT NORMAN WELLS LAST WEEK IS A CURRENT EXAMPLE; $1.5 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING HELPED THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS OF THE DENE AND MÉTIS PURCHASE THEIR SHARE OF AN EQUAL PARTNERSHIP WITH ESSO RESOURCES CANADA LTD.

CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

DURING THE PAST DECADE CONSIDERABLE EFFORT HAS BEEN EXPENDED ON THE REVITALIZATION OF INUIT CULTURE AND LANGUAGE. OVER THE PERIOD INUIT INITIATIVES, OFTEN SUPPORTED BY GOVERNMENT, HAVE LED TO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INUIT LANGUAGE WRITING SYSTEMS, TRANSLATION, LINGUISTIC RESEARCH, PERFORMING ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

PERHAPS THE SINGLE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT ON THE CULTURAL FRONT HAS BEEN THE RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INUIT BROADCASTING CORPORATION. NOW ASSURED OF MULTI-YEAR FEDERAL SUPPORT, IBC AND ITS AFFILIATES CAN LOOK FORWARD TO PLAYING AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE RETENTION OF INUIT CULTURE AND LANGUAGE IN CANADA. MANY

LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN PROGRAMMING CAN BE SHARED ON A REGULAR BASIS AMONG AUDIENCES IN ALASKA, CANADA AND GREENLAND.

AS MADAME BÉGIN MENTIONED EARLIER, THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA HAS APPRROVED A $40.3 MILLION NORTHERN NATIVE BROADCASTING PROGRAM. IBC AND ITS AFFILIATES ARE TO BE CONGRATULATED FOR THEIR PIONEERING WORK IN DEMONSTRATING THE VALUE AND POTENTIAL OF SUCH A PROGRAM.

OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS THE VITAL ROLE OF ELDERS IN INUIT SOCIETY HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED FORMALLY BY HOLDING ANNUAL ELDERS' CONFERENCES, WITH DIAND SUPPORT, IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE NORTH. THESE CONFERENCES PROVIDE A FORUM FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF THE TRADITIONAL VALUES AND KNOWLEDGE THAT ARE SO IMPORTANT TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE INUIT SOCIETY TODAY. THE INUIT ELDERS' CONFERENCE TAKING PLACE HERE NOW IS AN EXAMPLE OF ALL OUR EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE ROLE OF ELDERS IN THIS COMTEMPORARY SOCIETY.

THROUGH GRANTS, MY DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO BEEN ABLE TO SUPPORT THE CULTURAL PROGRAM FOR THIS CONFERENCE, INCLUDING THE ATTENDANCE OF REPRESENTATIVE INUIT MUSICIANS FROM ACROSS CANADA. THIS CONTRIBUTION IS ONLY PART OF A CONTINUING CULTURAL GRANT PROGRAM DIAND ADMINISTERS.

INTERNATIONAL CIRCUMPOLAR INITIATIVES

IN ADDITION TO OUR EFFORTS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, CANADA HAS TAKEN AN ACTIVE ROLE IN MEETING OUR INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CANADA'S PART OF THE CIRCUMPOLAR NORTH.

LET ME CITE TWO EXAMPLES:

BOTH THE CANADIAN AND THE DANISH GOVERNMENTS HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN VERY AWARE OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN THE WATERS LYING BETWEEN CANADA AND GREENLAND. INTERGOVERNMENTAL TALKS BEGAN IN 1976/77, FOLLOWING INCREASED HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION OF THE COAST OF GREENLAND AND THE PRESENTATION OF NEW DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS IN BOTH NORTHERN CANADA AND GREENLAND. THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE RESULTED IN THE SOON-TO-BE-SIGNED MARINE ENVIRONMENT

COOPERATION AGREEMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE CANADIAN AND DANISH GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS THE GREENLAND HOME RULE AUTHORITIES.

THE AGREEMENT ACKNOWLEDGES THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROTECT THIS UNIQUE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THEIR PEOPLE. IT AFFIRMS THE NEED TO COOPERATE CLOSELY IN ORDER TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO POLLUTION INCIDENTS THAT MAY OCCUR IN THE NORTH. IT ALSO PROVIDES FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN NORTHERN STUDIES AND ENCOURAGES THE EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION AND DATA.

DURING PREMIER MOTZFELDT'S VISIT TO OTTAWA, CANADA PROPOSED A VISIT BY FISHERIES AND OCEANS OFFICIALS TO GREENLAND FOR TECHNICAL-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS OF POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATION. THIS VISIT TOOK PLACE IN MAY 1983, AND THE TOPICS DISCUSSED WERE MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN RELATED TO SEALING, WHALING, AND SALMON AND SHRIMP STOCKS.

YOU WILL RECALL THAT LATE LAST YEAR THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY VOTED ON A MOTION TO BAN THE IMPORTATION OF SEAL PRODUCTS. WHILE THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WAS UNABLE TO PREVENT A BAN ON HARP AND

HOODED SEAL PUP PELTS, THE ADULT RING SEALS HARVESTED BY INUIT WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE BAN. NEVERTHELESS, WE REALIZED THAT THE MARKET FOR RING SEAL PELTS HAD BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED, AND WE SET UP A TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITIES FOR NEW MARKETS. I WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO OFFSET THE EFFECTS OF THE EEC BAN, RECOGNIZING THE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL IMPORTANCE OF THE SEAL HUNT TO THE INUIT.

IN APRIL DIAND WAS ABLE TO HELP SEND INUIT REPRESENTATIVES TO A CONVENTION IN BOTSWANA ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES. AS YOU KNOW, A PROPOSAL HAD BEEN MADE TO PLACE ALL SPECIES OF SEALS ON THE ENDANGERED LIST, WHICH WOULD HAVE EFFECTIVELY DESTROYED THE COMMERCIAL SEAL TRADE. THAT MOTION WAS DEFEATED, THANKS TO THE CONCERTED EFFORTS OF THE INUIT AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS. IT IS GRATIFYING TO KNOW THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS ABLE TO PLAY A SMALL PART IN THAT VICTORY FOR ALL INUIT.

CONCLUSION

TO SUM UP, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES FOR THE NORTH ARE: TO ACHIEVE A JUST RESOLUTION OF INUIT AND OTHER CLAIMS; TO ESTABLISH A

NEW GENERATION OF NORTHERN TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS BASED ON PRINCIPLES OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, NEW BOUNDARIES AND CLARIFIED JURISDICTION; AND, FINALLY, TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE POLICY BASES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S NORTHERN POLICY INITIATIVES, AND THE OTHER PROCESSES I HAVE DESCRIBED, FIND CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT IN THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THIS ASSEMBLY IN 1980. WE ARE NOW AT THE BEGINNING OF A NEW PERIOD OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARCTIC. INUIT HAVE ACCEPTED THIS CHALLENGE AND RESPONSIBILITY WITH CONSIDERABLE ENTHUSIASM. I HAVE GOOD REASON, THEREFORE, TO LOOK FORWARD TO STUDYING THE RESULTS OF YOUR DELIBERATIONS HERE AND WORKING WITH THE ICC IN PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF INUIT IN CANADA.

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Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada

STATEMENT BY THE HON. JOHN C. MUNRO, P.C., M.P., MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

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FOR A MEETING OF THE
FEDERATION OF SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN NATIONS
AND THE
INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA
CALGARY, ALBERTA
NOVEMBER 9, 1983

Canada

NOTES PREPARED FOR

THE HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO, P.C., M.P.,

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

ON THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

ON INDIAN SELF-GOVERNMENT

FOR A MEETING OF THE

FEDERATION OF SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN NATIONS

AND THE

INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

CALGARY, ALBERTA

NOVEMBER 9, 1983

Speech no. 3-8308

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The Special Committee on Indian Self-Government is the first committee of Parliament which has ever been convened with all party support from the House of Commons to study and recommend better ways of establishing a relationship among Indian peoples and between Indian people and the Crown. It is also the first time a Parliamentary committee has included an ex-officio member from the Assembly of First Nations as well as two native liaison members; one from the Native Women's Association of Canada and the other from the Native Council of Canada.

The mandate of the committee was to examine the status, development and responsibility of band governments as well as the financial relationship between the Government of Canada and Indian bands. These are problems that have occupied the Government of Canada and Indian leaders for generations and to which no satisfactory solutions have yet been found. Consequently, the Special Parliamentary Committee on Indian Self-Government was organized and supported by Parliament with the great hope that the committee's careful research might result in a landmark report.

These hopes were further encouraged by what was clearly a dedicated effort by each member of the committee to examine the problems posed by Indian self-government. I congratulate committee members for the thoroughness of their work, the evident breadth of their vision and their ability to stand united behind the essential recommendations of their report. Best of all, from what I've seen, the report seems to justify our hopes. It appears comprehensive, insightful and set out in a manner that will allow the government to react meaningfully. Some of the recommendations will require constitutional amendment in order to be implemented. But there are others which will only require legislation from the House of Commons. There is a third category of recommendations which we may be able to proceed with immediately, via program or administrative adjustments. Change could be accelerated if we proceed on all three of these fronts at once.

I'd like to assure Indian people that with their leaders' advice and support I will undertake to move as quickly as possible to review and to act upon those aspects of the report which fall within my mandate as Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

I trust also that the principal direction of the report will be attractive to my colleagues in Cabinet as the work of the committee fits well with the efforts of the federal government; these efforts have included recognition of aboriginal peoples and their rights in the Constitution of Canada. As the Prime Minister himself has said "although we cannot undo the past, we can be just in our time..." He has also stated:

> "Our system of government is based on inter-dependence and cooperation among the several orders of government, each with its responsibilities, powers and functions flowing from provisions of the Constitution, whether in the form of exclusive or concurrent powers.
>
> Aboriginal government, in whatever form or model, will have to fit into that system."

Choices will be made within parameters set by the Prime Minister when he said last March "... I reject again today as I did in 1969, assimilation and termination for the aboriginal peoples. As we stand on the threshold of this new constitutional process. I reject them as firmly as I reject full independence or absolute sovereignty..."

Within that range lies a vast array of possibilities. The committee's work has assisted the government in dealing with this - one of our highest priorities - by helping to narrow that range.

At the moment, Canada is in a phase of its history where the structural relationship between Canadian governments and Indians is changing from one of dependence to interdependence. This presents a challenge to all Canadians... the Special Committee has described this challenge eloquently. I along with Indian leaders will be striving during the course of the next few months to translate these recommendations into action.

While I cannot predict the outcome of the negotiations that will occur during the next few months, I think I can say with Indian leaders, as well as many other Canadians, I share the basic objective of the committee - that is a country in which there is justice for all... a country where we are not divided by argument but united in purpose.

That will be the key task over the next few months. Will we be able to unite behind the essential recommendations which we want to see implemented? As I am sure you know, we have tried to change the structure of the relationship between Indian people and the Government of Canada before. While we have never seen such a complete and thorough look at reforming the relationship as described in the report, many of the recommendations contained therein have been suggested before either by Indian leaders themselves or by the Government of Canada ... and this includes dismantling the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

I regard the next three or four months as the most important opportunity to reform the basic terms upon which Indian people govern themselves that I have seen in my Parliamentary career.

My colleagues in Ottawa on both sides of the House have shown an extraordinary breadth of vision and spirit of trust in mandating the committee to go and find the best solutions possible; not second best recommendations; not ones that we can implement with the least amount of fuss - but a comprehensive, coordinated series of recommendations with a basic thrust toward Indian government that responds to Indian conditions in Canada.

The result is, of course, a report that is controversial; that does challenge the way we have been operating legally and administratively. I am sure the debate around the Cabinet table will be just as vigorous as it will be at your council gatherings.

I don't think any of us can predict the exact outcome of those discussions but what we can and should count on is a continuation of the goodwill that I have seen on the part of my Cabinet colleagues and among Indian leaders.. For we are all directed and dedicated to creating a better system than we have now. I am depending on that goodwill, that breadth of vision to continue both from my fellow Parliamentarians and in my discussions with Indian leaders to overcome the inevitable disagreements that will arise over specific recommendations.

Let's keep the emphasis in our deliberations, our discussions and in our public statements, on Indian peoples' progress towards managing their own affairs. That is where your future lies. Part of this new puzzle is the power to make your own mistakes and realize your own successes in a new era unfettered by confining rules and regulations.

The report of the special committee has presented Parliament and Indian people with an exceptional opportunity to reconstruct the old relationship that has existed between Indians and the Crown for more than 300 years. The focus is now on all of us. The committee has done its job exceptionally well. It worked for more than 18 months. It travelled to sixty different locations throughout the country and listened to over 500 witnesses. The committee has taken great pains to reach a consensus on the recommendations ... consensus that included members from all three political parties and which for the first time in Canadian Parliamentary history included Indian people among its members.

We owe the members of the committee a debt of thanks for their efforts. We, also owe it to ourselves to make sure that we do not let their efforts sputter and fail into just another interesting report which is filed with many others in the Parliamentary library marked for information only.

It is an opportunity that I will be doing everything within my power as Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to realize. But I can't do it alone. Those days are already long past. To see a successful conclusion to the report, the effort must be a collective, co-operative one. That must include Indian leaders, my Cabinet colleagues, Parliament and ultimately provincial legislatures and premiers. Anything less will not be enough

Thank you.

Le rapport a donné au Parlement l'occasion unique de renouveler avec les Indiens des relations vieilles de trois cents ans. C'est maintenant à notre tour de jouer. Le Comité a fait un excellent travail. Qu'on en juge par ces chiffres : plus de 18 mois de travail, 60 localités visitées dans tout le pays et plus de 500 témoins entendus. Le Comité n'a par ailleurs ménagé aucun effort pour parveni à un consensus sur les recommandations... Rappelons que ce comité comprenait des membres des trois partis politiques et, pour la première fois dans l'histoire parlementaire du Canada, des Indiens.

Nous avons une dette envers le Comité pour les efforts qu'i a accomplis. Nous ne devons pas permettre que le rapport reste lettre morte et vienne s'ajouter aux nombreux documents conservés à la bibliothèque du Parlement.

A titre de ministre des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien, je ferai tout en mon pouvoir mais je n'y arrivera pas tout seul. Le rapport du Comité portera fruit si les dirigeants indiens, les membres du Cabinet, les parlements, et les premiers ministres des provinces acceptent de collaborer. C'est là une condition essentielle.

Merci

Aucun d'entre nous ne peut prédire avec certitude les résultats de ces débats, mais nous devrions pouvoir compter sur la bonne volonté dont les membres du Cabinet et les dirigeants indiens ont fait preuve jusqu'ici... Après tout, nous nous sommes engagés à instituer un meilleur système. Je m'attends donc que tous continuent à manifester la même volonté et la même ouverture d'esprit si certaines recommandations font l'objet de désaccords.

Mettons donc plutôt l'accent, dans nos discussions et nos prises de position, sur l'évolution des Indiens vers l'administration de leurs propres affaires; c'est là que se trouve l'avenir. Ce changement de situation vous permettra, d'une certaine façon, de faire des erreurs et de mesurer l'ampleur de vos succès sans que des règlements ne viennent limiter votre liberté d'action.

Jamais, au cours de ma carrière au Parlement, je n'ai vu se présenter une telle occasion de redéfinir l'autonomie politique des Indiens.

A Ottawa, les députés ont fait preuve d'une grande confiance et d'une ouverture d'esprit peu commune lorsqu'ils ont donné au Comité le mandat de rechercher les meilleures solutions possibles. Il n'est pas question de retenir des recommandations de deuxième ordre ou des recommandations faciles à mettre en application, mais plutôt de retenir une série de propositions fondées sur la confiance en l'autonomie politique des Indiens et correspondant à la situation des Indiens du Canada.

Ce rapport soulève donc une controverse puisqu'on y remet en question la législation et l'administration en place. Je suis certain que les discussions à ce sujet seront aussi animées au Cabinet qu'elles le seront lors des réunions des conseils de bande.

J'ignore quelle sera l'issue des négociations qui auront lieu prochainement mais je crois pouvoir affirmer, comme les dirigeants indiens et de nombreux autres Canadiens, que j'adopte l'objectif du Comité, soit de vivre dans un pays où la justice est la même pour tous... un pays où les divergences d'opinions ne l'emportent pas sur l'unité.

Telle est la tâche qu'il nous faudra accomplir. Mais pourrons-nous continuer d'appuyer ensemble les recommandations dont nous souhaitons voir l'application? Vous n'ignorez sans doute pas que nous avons déjà essayé de modifier les relations entre les Indiens et le gouvernement du Canada. Jamais auparavant, cette question n'avait été étudiée d'une manière aussi complète bien que les dirigeants indiens eux-mêmes et le gouvernement fédéral aient déjà formulé bon nombre des recommandations proposées... mentionnons entre autres celle qui concerne la suppression du ministère des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien.

Des choix seront faits dans les limites que le Premier ministre, en mars dernier, fixait en ces termes : "Au seuil de cette nouvelle étape de nos discussions constitutionnelles, comme en 1969, je rejette une fois de plus, ...les termes d'"assimilation" et d'"extinction" des peuples autochtones. Je les rejette aussi résolument que la notion d'indépendance complète ou de souveraineté absolue..."

Entre ces deux extrêmes, il existe tout un éventail de possibilités, et c'est ici que le Comité a joué un rôle auprès du gouvernement. En diminuant pour le gouvernement le nombre des options, il le seconde dans une tâche qu'il juge prioritaire, celle de choisir la solution idéale.

Actuellement, les Canadiens voient se transformer la nature des liens qui unissent les Indiens aux gouvernements, l'interdépendance remplaçant la dépendance. Comme l'a d'ailleurs très bien décrit le Comité spécial, ce changement est un défi pour tous les Canadiens. En accord avec les dirigeants indiens, je m'efforcerai, au cours des prochains mois, de donner suite aux recommandations du Comité.

Je crois aussi que l'orientation du rapport plaira au Cabinet car les conclusions du Comité correspondent aux efforts déjà déployés par le gouvernement fédéral, notamment pour reconnaître les autochtones et inscrire leurs droits dans la Constitution canadienne. Comme le Premier ministre l'a lui-même déclaré :

> Nous ne pouvons pas effacer le passé... (mais) nous pouvons..., en notre temps, être juste...

Il a ajouté par ailleurs :

> Notre système politique repose sur l'interdépendance et la coopération des divers ordres de gouvernement, chacun étant doté de responsabilités, de pouvoirs et de fonctions en vertu de la Constitution, que ces pouvoirs soient exclusifs ou concurrents.
>
> Tout régime éventuel d'administration autochtone autonome devra donc être compatible avec ce système et s'y insérer.

On attendait beaucoup du travail de ce comité d'autant plus que chaque membre a consacré de nombreux efforts à l'examen de l'autonomie politique des Indiens. Je tiens donc à féliciter le Comité pour la qualité de son travail, pour son ouverture d'esprit ainsi que pour l'unité dont il a su faire preuve au sujet des principales recommandations formulées dans son rapport. Mais le plus important, à mon avis, est que ce document semble répondre à nos attentes. Il paraît complet, intelligent et conçu de manière à permettre au gouvernement de prendre les dispositions qui s'imposent. Parmi toutes les recommandations, certaines nécessiteront de modifier la Constitution, d'autres n'exigeront que l'adoption de mesures législatives par la Chambre des communes, et d'autres encore pourront être mises en application dès maintenant si l'on apporte les changements administratifs voulus. Pour accélérer la transition, il suffirait d'agir sur tous ces plans à la fois.

J'aimerais assurer aux Indiens qu'avec les conseils et le soutien de leurs dirigeants, je donnerai suite le plus rapidement possible aux recommandations qui relèvent de ma compétence, à titre de ministre des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien.

Le Comité spécial de l'autonomie politique des Indiens est le premier comité parlementaire formé avec l'appui de tous les partis à la Chambre. Il a été chargé d'étudier et de recommander comment établir des relations harmonieuses entre les Indiens eux-mêmes et entre ces derniers et la Couronne. Dans ce cadre, c'était également la première fois qu'une personne de l'extérieur, soit un représentant de l'Assemblée des premières nations, y était nommée de droit, de même que deux autochtones, l'un délégué par l'Association des femmes autochtones du Canada et l'autre, par le Conseil national des autochtones du Canada.

Ce comité avait pour mandat d'étudier la situation, l'évolution et les domaines de compétence des administrations locales ainsi que les rapports d'ordre financier entre le gouvernement du Canada et les bandes indiennes. Il s'agit là de problèmes qui préoccupent le gouvernement fédéral et les dirigeants indiens depuis bien des années sans jamais avoir été résolus de manière satisfaisante. Aussi le Parlement a-t-il créé le Comité spécial de l'autonomie politique des Indiens dans l'espoir que les recherches menées par ce dernier conduiraient à un rapport de grande importance.

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NOTES POUR UNE ALLOCUTION PRONONCÉE PAR
L'HON. JOHN C. MUNRO, C.P., DÉPUTÉ,
MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES INDIENNES ET DU NORD CANADIEN,
SUR LE RAPPORT
DU COMITÉ SPÉCIAL DE L'AUTONOMIE POLITIQUE DES INDIENS

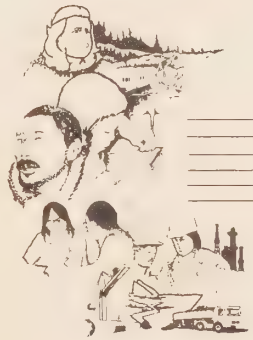
À L'OCCASION D'UNE RENCONTRE AVEC
LA FÉDÉRATION DES INDIENS DE LA SASKATCHEWAN
ET L'ASSOCIATION DES INDIENS DE L'ALBERTA
CALGARY, LE 9 NOVEMBRE 1983

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Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

ALLOCUTION DE L'HON. JOHN C. MUNRO, C.P., DÉPUTÉ, MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES INDIENNES ET DU NORD CANADIEN



À L'OCCASION D'UNE RENCONTRE AVEC
LA FÉDÉRATION DES INDIENS DE LA SASKATCHEWAN
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STATEMENT BY THE HON. JOHN C. MUNRO, P.C., M.P., MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

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11TH ANNUAL GEOSCIENCE FORUM

YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.

DECEMBER 9, 1983

Canada



NOTES FOR REMARKS BY

THE HONOURABLE JOHN C. MUNRO, P.C., M.P.

MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

11TH ANNUAL GEOSCIENCE FORUM

YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WAS DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE YOUR INVITATION TO BE WITH YOU TONIGHT.

THE GEOSCIENCE FORUM HAS BECOME AN IMPORTANT ANNUAL EVENT IN BOTH YUKON AND THE NWT. I AM THANKFUL TO THE NWT CHAMBER OF MINES FOR PROVIDING ME WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU TONIGHT AS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL AND VALUABLE WEEK OF DISCUSSIONS IS WINDING UP.

THESE FORUMS ARE MEETING PLACES FOR PRESENTING IDEAS AND EXCHANGING VIEWS. THEY ALSO SERVE TO FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON JUST HOW MUCH THE MINING INDUSTRY HAS MEANT IN THE PAST, AND WILL MEAN IN THE FUTURE, TO CANADA AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES.

I NOTICED THAT JOHN WILSON (VICE-PRESIDENT, NORTHERN GROUP, COMINCO LTD.) SET THE TONE AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR FORUM BY DISCUSSING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NORTHERN MINERAL INDUSTRY. TO RE INFORCE JOHN'S STATEMENTS, I WOULD LIKE TO ADD MY OWN THOUGHTS ON THIS SUBJECT.

IN A VERY REAL SENSE, EXPLORATION AND MINING OPENED UP THE NORTH, MOST OF THE COMMUNITIES THAT NOW EXIST - THE ROADS

AND RAILWAYS, THE COMMUNICATIONS AND POWER LINKS, AND MANY OF THE PEOPLE - ARE HERE TODAY BECAUSE OF THE DETERMINATION AND PIONEERING SPIRIT OF THE PROSPECTORS AND MINERS WHO OPENED UP THESE VAST TERRITORIES.

INDEED, IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONTEMPLATE A HEALTHY OR EXPANDING ECONOMY IN EITHER YUKON OR THE NWT IN WHICH THE MINING INDUSTRY IS NOT A MAJOR PLAYER.

HISTORICALLY, MINING IN THE NORTH HAS PAID ITS WAY AND HAS BEEN THE PRIME ENGINE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. PERHAPS THIS HAS SOMETIMES BEEN TAKEN FOR GRANTED. IT IS TRUE THAT THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY HAS A HIGHER NATIONAL PROFILE AND THIS IS BECOMING THE CASE IN THE TERRITORIES. HOWEVER, MINING HAS BEEN AROUND FOR A LONG TIME AND HAS ALWAYS PROVIDED A SOLID BASIS FOR DEVELOPMENT. I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOT A SUNSET INDUSTRY AS SOME HAVE SUGGESTED. I CAN ALSO ASSURE YOU THAT MY GOVERNMENT WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THIS INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO FLOURISH.

THE FUTURE HEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MINING INDUSTRY HAS NEVER BEEN SO IMPORTANT AS IT IS NOW; IT CAN NO LONGER BE ASSUMED OR TAKEN FOR GRANTED. IT IS OPERATING IN A CONTEXT OF RAPIDLY INCREASING COSTS, LABOUR INSTABILITY, HIGHLY

COMPETITIVE WORLD MARKETS, UNCERTAINTY WITH RESPECT TO ASSURED ACCESS TO OREBODIES AND A HIGHLY COMPLEX SET OF GOVERNMENT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND REGULATORY POLICIES.

FOR NORTHERN MINING TO CONTINUE TO BE A SOURCE OF EMPLOYMENT, FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS, PERSONAL AND PUBLIC INCOME AND SPIN-OFF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, THE INDUSTRY AND ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER TO DEVELOP CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACHES TO RESOLVING THE CRITICAL ISSUES WITH WHICH WE HERE TONIGHT ARE ALL FAMILIAR.

SOME OF THESE ISSUES, SUCH AS LOWERING DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATING COSTS, ARE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TO SOLVE. BUT PERHAPS THERE MAY BE WAYS TO OFFSET THEM THROUGH FLEXIBLE TAX REGIMES AND PRODUCTIVITY INCREASES.

PRODUCTIVITY INCREASES THROUGH ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY AND AUTOMATION WILL ADD NEW CHALLENGES TO AN ALREADY DIFFICULT LABOUR SITUATION. HIGHER SKILL LEVELS AND EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS WILL BE REQUIRED BY INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT IF THIS LABOUR DEMAND IS TO BE MET PARTICULARLY IF IT'S TO BE SOURCED HERE IN THE NORTH.

IF WE WISH TO OPTIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION MINING IS MAKING TO TERRITORIAL ECONOMIES, GREATER CAPACITY WILL HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED IN A TRAINED LABOUR POOL AND IN SERVICE INDUSTRIES. CO-OPERATIVE PLANNING WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO MAKE MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT.

GOVERNMENTS WILL HAVE TO FACILITATE DEVELOPMENT BY PROVIDING A CLEAR AND CONSISTENT POLICY FRAMEWORK, BY INTRODUCING MORE CERTAINTY INTO THE PLANNING ENVIRONMENT AND BY MAKING AGGRESSIVE BUT SOUND INVESTMENT DECISIONS IN THE PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE.

WITHOUT SACRIFICING ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY OR NORTHERNERS' SOCIAL AND CULTURAL VALUES, A CAREFUL BALANCE WILL HAVE TO BE STRUCK IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO MINERAL DEVELOPMENT. COSTS AND CONDITIONS WHICH RENDER A PROJECT UNECONOMIC OBVIOUSLY PREVENT THE CREATION OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS UNCONDITIONAL MAY YIELD SOCIAL COSTS WHICH OUTWEIGH ECONOMIC BENEFITS OR WHICH IMPOSE CHANGE AT A RATE TOO RAPID FOR THE NORTH TO ACCOMMODATE PROPERLY.

IN FORMULATING POLICIES LEADING TOWARDS BALANCED DEVELOPMENT, WE HAVE TO REALIZE HOW DIFFERENT ARE THE CONSIDERATIONS AND PROCESSES BY WHICH DECISIONS ARE BEING MADE BY INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENTS.

INDUSTRY MOBILIZES LARGE AMOUNTS OF CAPITAL AND A SOPHISTICATED AND DEMANDING LABOUR FORCE IN AN UNCERTAIN AND VOLATILE INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE. FIRMS RESPOND TO MARKET SIGNALS TO MAKE A PROFIT. THIS IS A FORMIDABLE TASK AND ONE THAT IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY THE EXISTENCE OF GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS. HOWEVER, THE OBJECTIVE IS CLEAR. THERE IS A BOTTOM LINE.

GOVERNMENT IS DIFFERENT, THERE ARE MANY "BOTTOM LINES". PARLIAMENT, WHICH IS FACED WITH A MULTITUDE OF POLITICAL INTERESTS AND GOALS GIVES DIRECTIONS TO THE BUREAUCRACY. THESE DIRECTIONS MUST REFLECT THE FACT THAT ENVIRONMENTALISTS WANT MORE PROTECTION; NATIVES WANT MINERAL RIGHTS; MANUFACTURERS WANT BUY-CANADIAN PROGRAMS; FIRMS IN TROUBLE WANT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE; THE INDUSTRY WANTS "NON-INTERFERENCE"; UNIONS WANT GOVERNMENT TO END WAGE RESTRAINTS; THE TERRITORIES WANT JURISDICTION; AND TAX PAYERS WANT RELIEF. THESE ARE NOT ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS. THIS IS THE REAL WORLD WITHIN WHICH WE BOTH OPERATE.

SO WHEN DECISIONS ARE MADE, THEY ARE BASED ON TRADE-OFFS AND CONCESSIONS AMONG EVERYBODY INVOLVED. WE ARE NOW EQUIPPED WITH ALL KINDS OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL TOOLS TO HELP US IN MAKING DECISIONS. AS EXAMPLES, I COULD SITE INPUT-OUTPUT AND COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS, MATHEMATICAL MODELING AND OTHER MYSTERIES. BUT IN PRACTICE, MANY TIMES WE HAVE TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO CRISES SITUATIONS.

YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED RECENTLY TO THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN THE NORTH. MAJOR MINES WERE SHUTDOWN IN BOTH TERRITORIES, EXPANSION PLANS WERE SHELVED, NEW PROJECTS DELAYED, AND RESIDENTS OF MANY MINING COMMUNITIES WENT THROUGH VERY DIFFICULT AND UNCERTAIN TIMES WHICH IN TOTAL CREATED A GLOOM AND DOOM CLIMATE, PARTICULARLY IN YUKON.

MY RESPONSE TO THE CYPRUS ANVIL AND PINE POINT CRISES ILLUSTRATES THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH IN SUCH SITUATIONS. TODAY, ALL MINES ARE BACK IN OPERATION, ALTHOUGH SOME ARE NOT YET INTO FULL SCALE PRODUCTION.

THERE MAY WELL BE ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS OF THIS TYPE THAT WE WILL HAVE TO FACE BEFORE WE TURN THE CORNER COMPLETELY. LET ME ASSURE YOU, HOWEVER, THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IT CAN TO HELP YOU THROUGH THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD.

TO BRING ALL THE ELEMENTS OF NORTHERN MINING DEVELOPMENT INTO SHARPER FOCUS, MY DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN DEVELOPING FOR SOME TIME A NORTHERN MINERAL POLICY, A POLICY WHICH I HOPE WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE SPRING OF 1984. IT'S DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE AND STIMULATE INCREASED EXPLORATION AND MINING DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTH. THIS POLICY WILL CLEARLY INDICATE THE STEPS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO TAKE IN HELPING TO INCREASE THE INDUSTRY'S COMPETITIVENESS IN DOMESTIC AND WORLD MARKETS.

I AM NOT IN A POSITION TONIGHT TO DETAIL THE SPECIFIC MEASURES THAT WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE POLICY. BUT WE HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY CONSULTING WITH MY NORTHERN MINERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THIS CONSULTATION WILL BECOME MUCH MORE INTENSE AND FOCUSSED IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. AS PART OF THIS PROCESS WE WILL SOON START RELEASING A SERIES OF NORTHERN MINERAL POLICY ISSUE PAPERS DEALING WITH SUCH TOPICS AS PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE, GOVERNMENTAL FRAMEWORK, NORTHERN MINING OVERVIEW, MINING COMMUNITIES AND OTHER RELATED SUBJECTS.

I AM AWARE THAT INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN VERY CO-OPERATIVE AND HAVE PROVIDED SIGNIFICANT INPUT TO THE PREPARATION OF THE POLICY. I THANK THEM FOR THIS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO CONTINUE TO GIVE US THEIR VALUED COUNSEL.

I PERSONALLY BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY IN THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION, CONCILIATION AND CONSENSUS. NO POLICY CAN BE MADE TO WORK UNLESS THE PARTIES MOST INVOLVED WANT IT TO, AND ARE WILLING TO WORK TOGETHER IN MUTUAL RESPECT AND TRUST. I BELIEVE THE NORTHERN MINERAL POLICY WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARDS CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE OF CERTAINTY AND OF COMMITMENT THAT WE NEED TO STIMULATE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN INVESTORS TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN NORTHERN EXPLORATION AND MINE DEVELOPMENT.

FINDING THE RIGHT SOLUTION OR MIX OF SOLUTIONS TO NORTHERN MINERAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE FUTURE WILL NOT BE AN EASY TASK.

THE FEDERAL AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, COMPANIES, UNIONS, NATIVE GROUPS, ORDINARY CITIZENS, ALL HAVE A STAKE IN NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND ALL MUST BE HEARD. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE KIND OF CONSULTATION, TRUST AND COMPROMISE THAT WILL BE NEEDED IS MUCH BETTER NOW THAN IT WAS JUST A FEW YEARS AGO.

I THINK THE PICTURE IS NOW BRIGHTER. WORLD DEMAND FOR MINERALS, ALTHOUGH NOT AT ITS HISTORICAL RATE, WILL CONTINUE TO GROW. WE MUST BEGIN PREPARING TO ENSURE THAT CANADA, AT THE VERY LEAST, MAINTAINS ITS SHARE OF THE INTERNATIONAL

MINERAL MARKET. TO THIS END, THE NORTHERN MINERAL INDUSTRY AND BOTH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT MUST WORK TOGETHER TO SECURE AN IMPORTANT PLACE FOR NORTHERN MINERALS.

WITH 40 PER CENT OF CANADA'S LAND MASS SITUATED NORTH OF 60 AND WITH INDICATIONS OF THE PRESENCE OF SIGNIFICANT MINERAL DEPOSITS, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF CANADA'S FUTURE MINERAL DEVELOPMENTS SHOULD OCCUR HERE.

TODAY, ONLY FIVE PER CENT OF CANADA'S MINES ARE LOCATED IN THE NORTH. OVER THE LONG-TERM, THIS FIGURE MUST SURELY GROW. BUT IF WE ARE TO FIND AND EXPLOIT ECONOMICALLY VIABLE DEPOSITS, THERE HAS TO BE A GREAT DEAL MORE INTENSIVE EXPLORATION IN THE NORTH.

ONE OF THE UNFORTUNATE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE RECENT RECESSION HAS BEEN THE REDUCTION OF EXPLORATION EXPENDITURES. IN 1982, THESE FELL IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES TO 22 MILLION DOLLARS FROM 50 MILLION THE PREVIOUS YEAR. WE MUST TURN THIS AROUND.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WANTS TO ENCOURAGE INVESTORS, BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN, TO STEP-UP THE PACE OF EXPLORATION IN THE NORTH AND IT IS PREPARED TO DO WHAT IT CAN TO ENCOURAGE THIS.

NORTHERN MINES MUST BECOME MORE COMPETITIVE. OPERATING COSTS MUST BE LOWERED AND A KEY FACTOR WHICH CAN CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THIS, WILL BE THE EXPLOITATION OF HIGHER GRADE DEPOSITS WHICH YOU ARE EXPECTED TO FIND. THE MORE YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO LOOK, THE BETTER THE CHANCE YOU WILL FIND THEM.

OVER THE YEARS, MEMBERS OF YOUR INDUSTRY HAVE IDENTIFIED MANY OF THE FACTORS NECESSARY TO CREATE THE SORT OF INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN WHICH YOU WILL EXPLORE AND DEVELOP MORE AGGRESSIVELY. YOU HAVE LET US KNOW WHAT ROLE YOU FEEL THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD PLAY AND, I UNDERSTAND, JOHN WILSON THREW OUT A FEW CHALLENGES YESTERDAY.

I HAVE ALWAYS TRIED TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO YOUR CONCERNS AND NEEDS. I THINK THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF ACTIVE GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPING THE NORTHERN INFRASTRUCTURE. I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND THIS AUDIENCE THAT AT PINE POINT, FOR EXAMPLE, INFRASTRUCTURE AMOUNTED TO NEARLY 78 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL PROJECT COST. ALL THE INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL COSTS WERE INITIALLY BORNE BY THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

IT WAS THE CANADIAN TAXPAYER WHO PAID $4 MILLION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLINTON CREEK'S INFRASTRUCTURE, ABOUT $6 MILLION FOR CANADA TUNGSTEN AND OVER $24 MILLION AT NANISIVIK. AT CYRPUS ANVIL, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PAID ABOUT 55 PER CENT OF THE COST OF ROADS, THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC POWER AND TOWNSITE DEVELOPMENT.

AS YOU NOW, LATE THIS SUMMER I OBTAINED APPROVAL FROM CABINET FOR A NEW ROADS POLICY. WE WILL BE SPENDING SOME $100 MILLION ON ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN THE NORTH OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. WITHIN THIS PROGRAM, YOU WILL BE HAPPY TO HEAR THAT I DOUBLED THE LEVEL OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR RESOURCE ACCESS ROADS.

WITHIN A FEW DAYS WE WILL RECEIVE THE CTC REPORT DEALING WITH TRANSPORTATION ISSUES IN YUKON. I HAVE ALREADY INSTRUCTED MY OFFICIALS TO PREPARE, IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT AND THE INDUSTRY, A DETAILED PLAN OF ACTION WITH A VIEW TO FINDING WAYS TO REDUCE TRANSPORTATION COSTS. WE WILL BE LOOKING AT ALL ALTERNATIVES, SO AS TO MAKE DECISIONS BASED ON ECONOMIC REALITIES. YOU WILL ALSO BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT MY OFFICIALS ARE ALREADY WORKING ON A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY STRATEGY WHICH WILL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION BOTH THE NEB AND PENNER REPORTS. I INTEND TO

DISCUSS THIS STRATEGY WITH MY CABINET COLLEAGUES WITHIN A FEW WEEKS. THIS STRATEGY WILL RESPOND TO THE ECONOMIC REALITIES AND NEEDS OF THE NORTH. IT WILL ALSO REFLECT THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY TO THE NORTH. I SEE ALL THESE ACTIONS AS GOVERNMENT'S ENCOURAGEMENT TO PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. DON'T YOU JOHN? AM I RESPONDING POSITIVELY TO YOUR CHALLENGE?

ONE MORE POINT, JOHN. YOU RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE NEED FOR GOVERNMENT TO TAKE SIDES WHEN CONFRONTED WITH CERTAIN CONFLICTS BETWEEN EXCESSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT. YOU WILL HAVE TO PROVE TO ME THAT THIS IS SO BY PRESENTING CONCRETE INFORMATION.

I REALIZE THAT THERE ARE LIMITS ON HOW MUCH INDUSTRY CAN PAY TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT WITHOUT SERIOUSLY AFFECTING ITS COMPETITIVENESS. I ALSO KNOW THAT EXCESSIVE NUMBERS OF STUDIES DONE IN RESPONSE TO DIFFERENT PROCESSES MAY IMPOSE ADDITIONAL EXPENSES AND DELAYS. WE ARE LOOKING INTO ALL THESE ISSUES IN PREPARING THE MINERAL POLICY. WE WANT TO CLARIFY, SIMPLIFY AND STREAMLINE THE APPROVAL AND REGULATORY PROCESSES. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, I HAVE TO REMIND YOU THAT YOUR POLARIS PROJECT WAS NOT REVIEWED BY EARP AND ALTHOUGH YOU HAD TO DO SOME ENVIRONMENTAL-RELATED STUDIES, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT SUCH CONCERNS CAUSED ANY DELAYS.

CULLATON LAKE, LUPIN AND SALMITA MINES, WHICH WERE RECENTLY DEVELOPED, WERE ONLY REVIEWED INTERNALLY BY MY DEPARTMENT AND APPROVAL WAS GIVEN WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE DELAYS.

THERE IS ONE OTHER ASPECT OF NORTHERN MINERAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH CONCERNS ME AND WHICH I BELIEVE WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE. THIS IS THE DISRUPTIVE EFFECT THAT CYCLICAL PATTERNS OF MINING DEVELOPMENT CAN HAVE ON THE COMMUNITIES WHICH ARE BUILT TO SERVE THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

WE CAN NEVER TOTALLY ELIMINATE THE PROBLEM IN AN INDUSTRY AS SUBJECT TO THE VAGARIES OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND AS MINING. BUT WE HAVE ALL COME TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC AND HUMAN COSTS THAT SHUTDOWNS AND LAYOFFS CAN HAVE IN THESE COMMUNITIES. THESE COSTS MUST BE BORNE BY GOVERNMENTS, INDUSTRIES AND INDIVIDUALS AT THE SAME TIME.

SO, I BELIEVE, WE MUST CO-OPERATE IN DEVELOPING APPROACHES TO MINIMIZE THIS PROBLEM AND ENCOURAGE MORE STABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AS MINERAL EXPLOITATION INCREASES IN THE NORTH.

A NUMBER OF JURISDICTIONS WITHIN CANADA HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO THIS PROBLEM. THESE WILL BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL IN THE NORTHERN MINERAL POLICY. HERE,

LET ME ONLY MENTION THAT IN MY OPINION THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MINING TOWNSITES SHOULD ONLY BE ENCOURAGED WHERE ORE RESERVES CAN SUSTAIN THE OPERATION FOR AT LEAST TWENTY YEARS.

THERE SEEMS TO BE A CONSENSUS EMERGING THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEDICATED TOWNSITES SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED AND, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, CENTRAL RESOURCE TOWNS SERVING A NUMBER OF MINES DEVELOPED.

WHEREVER POSSIBLE, RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE SERVED OUT OF EXISTING CENTRES LIKE YELLOWKNIFE AND WHITEHORSE. THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE IS TO HAVE MORE DIVERSIFIED, PERMANENT REGIONAL COMMUNITIES, SERVING A NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES AND CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING FLUCTUATIONS IN THE FORTUNES OF ANY ONE.

TO REDUCE THE COSTS OF DEVELOPING INFRASTRUCTURE, EXPERIMENTS WITH NON-COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES ARE UNDER WAY. THE FLY-IN/FLY-OUT APPROACHES AT THE POLARIS AND RABBIT LAKE PROJECTS ARE QUITE SUCCESSFUL.

THIS CONCEPT OFFERS SEVERAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ADVANTAGES. SIGNIFICANT COST SAVINGS IN INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES CAN BE REALIZED BECAUSE ACCOMMODATION AND SERVICES, NORMALLY

REQUIRED FOR FAMILY-ORIENTED COMMUNITIES, ARE NOT NECESSARY. AS WELL, THE COSTS OF INDIRECT BENEFITS, LIKE SUBSIDIZED HOUSING, ARE NOT AS GREAT AND IT IS GENERALLY EASIER TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN SKILLED PERSONNEL.

THE POSSIBLE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE CYCLICAL WORK HOURS THAT THIS ALTERNATIVE INVOLVES RAISE SOME CONCERNS AND ARE NOT YET FULLY UNDERSTOOD. TO DATE, HOWEVER, THESE DO NOT SEEM TO PRESENT A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR THE MAJORITY OF WORKERS.

THIS CONCEPT ALSO RAISES SOME LEGITIMATE CONCERNS HERE, SINCE THE TERRITORIES DO NOT HAVE A SUFFICIENT POOL OF WORKERS WITHIN THEIR OWN BOUNDARIES. THIS PROBLEM, TERMED "FLY-OVER", IS SOMETHING WHICH WILL REQUIRE MUCH ATTENTION.

THE SIMPLE CONCLUSION IS THAT THE PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS MUST BE FLEXIBLE AND THAT ALL PARTIES HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THAT CO-OPERATION, UNDERSTANDING AND A COMMON PURPOSE ARE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

THIS BRINGS US TO THE LAST PART OF MY SPEECH. WHAT IS OUR RECORD IN THIS RESPECT?

FOR MANY YEARS THE GENERAL BELIEF HAS BEEN THAT THE MAIN PLAYERS HAVE DIFFERENT AND OFTEN CONTRADICTORY OBJECTIVES. ON THE SURFACE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS MAY OCCASIONALLY DISAGREE WITH THE FEDERAL LEVEL; LABOUR MAY DISTRUST MANAGEMENT; MANAGEMENT CRITIZES LABOUR FOR EXCESSIVE DEMANDS; AND BOTH HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO BLAME GOVERNMENT FOR JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING.

LET US BE MORE SPECIFIC. THE KEY PLAYERS INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION AND CLOSURE OF A MINE AND IN THE POTENTIAL DECLINE OF ITS ATTENDANT COMMUNITY, INCLUDE THE MINING COMPANY, THE LABOUR FORCE, THE THREE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, THE SHAREHOLDERS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS. ALL THESE PLAYERS MAY SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGE OVER THE MINE'S LIFESPAN, THUS, THE ORIGINAL RATIONALE FOR THE OPENING OF THE MINE IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND THE MANY BENEFITS IT HAS GENERATED OVER ITS LIFE, CAN QUICKLY BE FORGOTTEN IN THE EMOTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MINE'S CLOSURE. THIS IS A MAJOR PROBLEM WHICH I THINK WE ALL RECOGNIZE.

THE COMPANY'S MANAGEMENT IS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING A PROFITABLE OPERATION AT MINIMUM RISK AND COST. IT MUST BE DONE WITHIN A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE AND COMPLEX INTERNATIONAL MARKET AND AN EQUALLY COMPLEX SOCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL

DOMESTIC ENVIRONMENT. THE COMPANY HAS RESPONSIBILITIES TO ITS SHAREHOLDERS, WHO IN TURN HAVE THEIR OWN SET OF EXPECTATIONS AND INTERESTS. AS SUCH, THE COMPANY SEEKS TO HAVE INFRASTRUCTURE IN PLACE IN TIME TO SUPPORT ITS ACTIVITIES AND NOT SURPRISINGLY, WOULD LIKE THAT INFRASTRUCTURE EVENTUALLY PAID FOR BY GOVERNMENT UNDER REALISTIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

LABOUR IS INTERESTED IN EARNING A FAIR WAGE AND EXPECTS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF JOB SECURITY AND A COMMITMENT BY THE COMPANY TO A CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN THE WORKING AND LIVING ENVIRONMENTS.

TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS ARE INTERESTED IN THE REALIZATION OF THEIR OWN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OBJECTIVES. IN SHORT, THEY WANT A FAIR SHARE FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS SIMILAR INTERESTS, BUT HAS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NATIONAL CONTEXT AS WELL.

DESPITE THESE DIFFERENCES, IT IS EASY TO SEE THAT ALL PARTIES SHARE ONE MAJOR OBJECTIVE: TO HAVE A STRONG, EFFICIENT, PROFITABLE AND INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE MINING INDUSTRY IN THE NORTH. ONLY THEN WILL THIS SECTOR BE ABLE

TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE BENEFITS TO ALL NORTHERNERS AND TO THE REST OF CANADA.

THE RECENT ECONOMIC CRISIS HAS BEEN VERY EDUCATIONAL IN THIS RESPECT. IT HAS RESULTED IN A GROWING AWARENESS THAT ALL PARTIES HAVE TO PLAN AND WORK TOGETHER. THIS CRISIS ALSO REMINDED US THAT THERE WILL BE MORE TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT CLOSURES OF MINES AND THAT WE COLLECTIVELY HAVE TO BE BETTER PREPARED TO HANDLE THE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES IF THE CRUNCH COMES AGAIN.

IN SUMMARY, WE NEED CHANGES. THEY MUST REFLECT THE NEEDS OF INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT, LABOUR AND THE COMMUNITIES. THE PREMISE IS THAT INDUSTRY IDENTIFIES OPPORTUNITIES, MOBILIZES CAPITAL, PROVIDES A LABOUR FORCE AND THE KNOW-HOW.

GOVERNMENT PROVIDES PUBLIC GOODS AND SERVICES IN SUPPORT. THEREFORE...

INDUSTRY NEEDS:

- A CLEAR AND CONSISTENT POLICY FRAMEWORK
- GOVERNMENTS' HELP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE
- QUICK AND DEFINITIVE GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING

LABOUR NEEDS:

- JOB SECURITY AND STABILITY
- A HEALTHY AND SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT
- FAIR WAGES AND BENEFITS

GOVERNMENT NEEDS:

- CLEAR AND COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION DEMONSTRATING THAT PROJECTS CONFORM TO POLICIES
- PROOF THAT SOCIAL BENEFITS ARE GREATER THAN SOCIAL COSTS
- ASSURANCE THAT ALL LEGITIMATE STAKEHOLDERS SUPPORT THE PROJECT OR AT LEAST ACQUIESCE

THE CHALLENGE IS TO SET UP THE SIMPLEST PROCESS TO ENSURE THAT THESE NEEDS ARE MET.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCH A PROCESS SHOULD INCLUDE:

- MANAGERS WHO HAVE AN INCENTIVE TO ACHIEVE POSITIVE RESULTS. THIS MEANS A FOCAL POINT FOR MANAGEMENT.

- STREAMLINED APPROVAL PROCESSES
- NEED FOR MANAGERS WHO KNOW INDUSTRY AND POLICIES

- COMPANY PHILOSOPHY ENDORSED AT THE MOST SENIOR LEVEL, WHICH INDICATES SENSITIVITY TO LEGITIMATE STAKEHOLDERS

- AND IN RETURN GOVERNMENT MUST BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH EACH PROJECT ON ITS MERITS WITHIN BROAD GUIDELINES.

IN SHORT, WE ALL NEED EACH OTHER.

THAT REALIZATION, THAT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT NO GROUP CAN BE LEFT OUT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTHERN MINERAL INDUSTRY, IS THE SAME VIEW I BRING TO THE NORTH'S DEVELOPMENT IN GENERAL. MY NORTHERN STRATEGY IS BUILT ON THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL NORTHERNERS, ON ALL FRONTS, SO THAT PROGRESS IS BALANCED AND ITS REWARDS ARE EQUITABLY SHARED.

MY NORTHERN STRATEGY HAS THREE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES:

- THE SETTLEMENT OF NATIVE LAND CLAIMS
- THE CONSTITUTIONAL EVOLUTION OF THE NORTH
- THE PURSUIT OF ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROGRESS TOWARDS ANY OF THESE OBJECTIVES OFTEN ENCOURAGES MOVEMENT ON ANOTHER FRONT. THUS, I THINK NORTHERNERS CANNOT BUT HELP SHARE MY CONVICTION THAT THE SETTLEMENT OF LAND CLAIMS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE STABLE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT. ONE NEED ONLY LOOK AT THE EXAMPLE OF NORMAN WELLS TO SEE HOW TRUE THIS PREMISE IS.

I BELIEVE THAT THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS HAS BROUGHT HOME TO NORTHERNERS THE NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WHAT UNITES -- NOT DIVIDES THEM. BECAUSE OF THIS, IT HAS ALLOWED US TO MOVE ON EACH FRONT IN THE PURSUIT OF WHAT I CALL "THE CLIMATE OF CERTAINTY". THUS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO LAUNCH A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PROMISING INITIATIVES. THEY INCLUDE:

- THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NORTHERN HYDROCARBON STRATEGY WHICH WILL ALLOW THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY TO MOVE SAFELY FROM THE EXPLORATION TO PRODUCTION PHASE;
- A LAND USE PLANNING FRAMEWORK THAT BALANCES RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS;
- A COMPREHENSIVE NORTHERN ENERGY STRATEGY WHICH WILL LEAD TO FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN THE OPERATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AND THE PROVISION OF ENERGY;

- THE CREATION OF A NETWORK OF CONSERVATION AREAS, AND THE NECESSARY DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT REGIMES.

OUR NORTHERN STRATEGY, LIKE THE MINERAL POLICY, IS COMPOSED OF A MATRIX OF INTERLOCKING ISSUES. EACH ADD TO THE LARGER FRAMEWORK OF THE NORTH'S SOCIAL, CULTURAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL EVOLUTION. IT'S COMPLEX AND INTRICATE, BUT THERE CAN BE NO DENYING THAT IT IS BEGINNING TO BENEFIT EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM. YOU WANT ASSURANCES THAT YOUR INDUSTRY WILL BE ABLE TO GROW AND PROSPER. I AM TELLING YOU THAT YOUR AIMS ARE IDENTICAL TO MINE, BECAUSE THEY CONTRIBUTE TO AN EVEN LARGER AND BRIGHTER PICTURE.

THAT, MY FRIENDS, IN AN ADMITTEDLY SHORT OVERVIEW, IS MY OUTLOOK ON THE NORTHERN MINERAL INDUSTRY. IT IS ONE WHICH RECOGNIZES GREAT COMPLEXITIES, MANY CHALLENGES, BUT BASICALLY IS IMBUED WITH TREMENDOUS CONFIDENCE ABOUT YOU AND THE NORTH'S FUTURE.

IF I CAN LEAVE YOU WITH ONE THOUGHT TONIGHT, IT IS TO BE PROUD OF THE TREMENDOUS HISTORY OF YOUR INDUSTRY. YOU OPENED UP HALF-A-COUNTRY TO WHICH THE NORTH AND INDEED ALL CANADIANS OWE YOU A GREAT DEBT. HOWEVER, YOUR VISION AND YOUR CONTINUED ENERGY ARE NEEDED JUST AS MUCH IN THE FUTURE. LET US JOIN TOGETHER, NOW AND TOMORROW, IN THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THIS GREAT LAND.

THANK YOU.

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Notes

Notes

PROFITER DE CETTE ÉVOLUTION. VOUS SOUHAITEZ DES GARANTIES, VOUS VOULEZ ÊTRE CERTAINS QUE L'INDUSTRIE POURRA CROÎTRE ET PROSPÉRER. JE VOUS DIS QUE VOS BUTS SONT SEMBLABLES AUX MIENS, PARCE QU'ILS OUVRENT DES HORIZONS PLUS LARGES ET PLUS PROMETTEURS.

VOILÀ, MESDAMES ET MESSIEURS, DE FAÇON TRÈS RAPIDE, MA CONCEPTION DU RÔLE DE L'INDUSTRIE MINIÈRE DANS LE NORD. JE RECONNAIS LA COMPLEXITÉ ET LES NOMBREUX DÉFIS, MAIS EN DÉFINITIVE J'AI UNE CONFIANCE IMMENSE EN VOUS ET EN L'AVENIR DU NORD.

AVANT DE PARTIR JE VOUDRAIS VOUS LAISSER UN THÈME DE RÉFLEXION : IL FAUT ÊTRE FIER DE L'HISTOIRE DE L'INDUSTRIE MINIÈRE DU CANADA. VOUS AVEZ OUVERT LA MOITIÉ DU PAYS ET JE PENSE QUE LE NORD AINSI QUE TOUS LES CANADIENS ONT UNE GRANDE DETTE ENVERS VOUS. CEPENDANT, NOUS AVONS ENCORE BESOIN DE VOTRE VISION DE L'AVENIR ET DE VOS EFFORTS RÉPÉTÉS. METTONS-NOUS ENSEMBLE DÈS MAINTENANT POUR CONTINUER LA MISE EN VALEUR DE CE PAYS MERVEILLEUX.

MERCI

JE CROIS QUE LE PROCESSUS DE NÉGOCIATION A FAIT RESSORTIR CHEZ LES HABITANTS DU NORD LA NÉCESSITÉ DE RECHERCHER CE QUI LES UNIT ET NON CE QUI LES DIVISE. POUR CETTE RAISON, IL NOUS A ÉTÉ POSSIBLE D'AVANCER DANS LES DOMAINES ESSENTIELS À LA CRÉATION D'UN "CLIMAT DE CONFIANCE". DANS CE CONTEXTE, LE GOUVERNEMENT A PU LANCER UN NOMBRE IMPORTANT D'INITIATIVES COMPRENANT :

- L'ÉLABORATION D'UNE POLITIQUE DES HYDROCARBURES QUI PERMETTRAIT À L'INDUSTRIE DU PÉTROLE ET DU GAZ DE PASSER PROGRESSIVEMENT À LA PHASE DE L'EXPLORATION;
- UNE POLITIQUE D'AMÉNAGEMENT ET D'UTILISATION DES TERRES QUI TIENDRAIT COMPTE DE LA MISE EN VALEUR DES RESSOURCES ET DE LA CONSERVATION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT;
- UNE POLITIQUE GLOBALE DE L'ÉNERGIE QUI CONDUIRAIT À DES CHANGEMENTS FONDAMENTAUX DANS LE FONCTIONNEMENT DES SERVICES PUBLICS ET DANS L'APPROVISIONNEMENT EN ÉNERGIE;
- LA CRÉATION D'UN RÉSEAU COMPLET DE ZONES DE CONSERVATION.

CETTE POLITIQUE SUR LE NORD, COMME LA POLITIQUE DE L'EXPLOITATION MINIÈRE, EST COMPOSÉE D'UNE SÉRIE DE QUESTIONS QUI S'IMBRIQUENT, CHACUNE D'ELLES ÉLARGISSANT LE CADRE DE L'ÉVOLUTION POLITIQUE, CULTURELLE, SOCIALE ET ÉCONOMIQUE DU NORD. C'EST UN UNIVERS TRÈS COMPLEXE, MAIS PERSONNE DANS CETTE SALLE NE PEUT NIER QUE L'ON COMMENCE À

- EN RETOUR, QUE LE GOUVERNEMENT SOIT ASSEZ FLEXIBLE POUR TRAITER CHAQUE PROJET SELON SES MÉRITES, À L'INTÉRIEUR DE LIGNES DIRECTRICES SOUPLES.

EN RÉSUMÉ, NOUS AVONS TOUS BESOIN LES UNS DES AUTRES.

CETTE PRISE DE CONSCIENCE, CETTE RECONNAISSANCE QU'AUCUN GROUPE NE PEUT ÊTRE LAISSÉ À L'ÉCART DE L'EXPANSION DE L'INDUSTRIE MINIÈRE DU NORD, CORRESPOND À MA CONCEPTION DE L'ÉVOLUTION DU NORD EN GÉNÉRAL. MA POLITIQUE SUR LE NORD REPOSE SUR LA PARTICIPATION DE LA POPULATION LOCALE ET CE, DANS TOUS LES DOMAINES. AUSSI CE PROGRÈS EST-IL ÉQUILIBRÉ ET LES RÉSULTATS SONT-ILS PARTAGÉS ÉQUITABLEMENT.

MA POLITIQUE SUR LE NORD A TROIS OBJECTIFS FONDAMENTAUX :

- LE RÈGLEMENT DES REVENDICATIONS FONCIÈRES;
- L'ÉVOLUTION CONSTITUTIONNELLE;
- L'EXPANSION ÉCONOMIQUE.

LES PROGRÈS EN VUE DE L'UN DE CES OBJECTIFS ENCOURAGENT SOUVENT UN MOUVEMENT VERS UN AUTRE SECTEUR. AINSI, JE PENSE QUE LES HABITANTS DU NORD NE PEUVENT QUE PARTAGER MA CONVICTION QUE LE RÈGLEMENT DES REVENDICATIONS FAVORISERA LA STABILITÉ DU MILIEU DES AFFAIRES. IL SUFFIT DE REGARDER L'EXEMPLE DE NORMAN WELLS POUR VOIR COMBIEN CETTE AFFIRMATION EST JUSTE.

LE GOUVERNEMENT A BESOIN :

- DE RENSEIGNEMENTS CLAIRS ET COMPLETS DÉMONTRANT QUE LES PROJETS SONT CONFORMES AUX LIGNES DIRECTRICES;
- DE LA PREUVE QUE LES AVANTAGES SOCIAUX SONT SUPÉRIEURS AUX COÛTS SOCIAUX;
- DE L'ASSURANCE QUE TOUS LES ACTIONNAIRES LÉGITIMES APPUIENT LE PROJET OU, À TOUT LE MOINS, Y CONSENTENT.

LE DÉFI EST D'ÉTABLIR LE PROCESSUS LE PLUS SIMPLE POSSIBLE POUR S'ASSURER DE BIEN RÉPONDRE À CES BESOINS.

POUR EN ARRIVER LÀ IL FAUDRAIT :

- DES GESTIONNAIRES MOTIVÉS À OBTENIR DES RÉSULTATS POSITIFS; CE QUI REPRÉSENTERAIT UNE SORTE DE PIVOT POUR LA GESTION;

- DES PROCESSUS D'APPROBATION ACCÉLÉRÉS;

- DES GESTIONNAIRES QUI CONNAISSENT L'INDUSTRIE ET LES LIGNES DIRECTRICES QUI Y SONT RELIÉES;

- UNE PHILOSOPHIE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ MINIÈRE ACCEPTÉE DE LA HAUTE DIRECTION, CE QUI INDIQUE UNE CERTAINE SENSIBILISATION ENVERS LES ACTIONNAIRES LÉGITIMES;

EN RÉSUMÉ, NOUS AVONS BESOIN DE CHANGEMENTS QUI DOIVENT REFLÉTER LES BESOINS DE L'INDUSTRIE, DU GOUVERNEMENT, DES TRAVAILLEURS ET DES LOCALITÉS. IL FAUT DONC QUE L'INDUSTRIE DÉLIMITE LES POSSIBILITÉS, QU'ELLE ENGAGE LES CAPITAUX, QU'ELLE TROUVE LA MAIN-D'OEUVRE ET QU'ELLE SE CHARGE DE LA FORMATION.

LE GOUVERNEMENT FOURNIT LES SERVICES PUBLICS ET LES BIENS À L'APPUI. PAR CONSÉQUENT...

L'INDUSTRIE A BESOIN :

- DE LIGNES DIRECTRICES CLAIRES ET UNIFORMES;
- DE L'AIDE DES GOUVERNEMENTS POUR LA MISE EN PLACE DE L'INFRASTRUCTURE;
- DES DÉCISIONS RAPIDES ET DÉFINITIVES DE LA PART DU GOUVERNEMENT.

LES TRAVAILLEURS ONT BESOIN :

- DE SÉCURITÉ D'EMPLOI ET DE STABILITÉ
- D'UN MILIEU DE TRAVAIL SAIN ET SANS DANGER
- DE SALAIRES ET D'AVANTAGES ÉQUITABLES

LES TRAVAILLEURS DÉSIRENT GAGNER UN SALAIRE ÉQUITABLE. ILS S'ATTENDENT À UNE CERTAINE SÉCURITÉ D'EMPLOI ET À CE QUE LA SOCIÉTÉ S'ENGAGE À AMÉLIORER LE MILIEU DE TRAVAIL ET DE VIE.

LES GOUVERNEMENTS TERRITORIAUX VEULENT ATTEINDRE LEURS PROPRES OBJECTIFS ÉCONOMIQUES ET SOCIAUX. BREF, ILS VEULENT UNE JUSTE PART DE L'EXPLOITATION DES RESSOURCES MINÉRALES.

LE GOUVERNEMENT FÉDÉRAL A DES INTÉRÊTS SEMBLABLES, MAIS IL DOIT AUSSI TENIR COMPTE DU CONTEXTE NATIONAL.

MALGRÉ CES DIFFÉRENCES, IL EST FACILE DE CONSTATER QUE TOUTES LES PARTIES PARTAGENT UN MÊME OBJECTIF : UNE SOCIÉTÉ MINIÈRE DANS LE NORD QUI SOIT SOLIDE, EFFICACE, RENTABLE ET COMPÉTITIVE SUR LE PLAN INTERNATIONAL. C'EST À CE MOMENT SEULEMENT QUE LES HABITANTS DU NORD ET L'ENSEMBLE DU CANADA POURRONT EN BÉNÉFICIER.

LA RÉCENTE CRISE ÉCONOMIQUE NOUS EN A APPRIS BEAUCOUP. LES PARTIES SONT DÉSORMAIS DE PLUS EN PLUS CONSCIENTES DE L'IMPORTANCE DE PLANIFIER ET DE COLLABORER. CETTE CRISE NOUS A ÉGALEMENT RAPPELÉ QUE D'AUTRES MINES FERMERONT, TEMPORAIREMENT OU DE FAÇON PERMANENTE. IL FAUT DONC ÊTRE PRÉPARÉS À FAIRE FACE AUX QUESTIONS ÉCONOMIQUES ET SOCIALES DIFFICILES SI UNE CRISE SURVIENT DE NOUVEAU.

SOYONS PLUS PRÉCIS. LES MÊMES ACTEURS PARTICIPANT À L'OUVERTURE, À L'ESSOR PUIS À LA FERMETURE D'UNE MINE, AINSI QU'AU DÉCLIN DE LA LOCALITÉ ATTENANTE, SONT : LA SOCIÉTÉ MINIÈRE, LES TRAVAILLEURS, LES TROIS NIVEAUX DE GOUVERNEMENT, LES ACTIONNAIRES ET LES HABITANTS. CEUX-CI PEUVENT TOUS CHANGER DE FAÇON SIGNIFICATIVE AU COURS DE LA DURÉE DE VIE DE LA MINE. AINSI, LES RAISONS POUR LESQUELLES LA MINE A ÉTÉ OUVERTE DE MÊME QUE LES NOMBREUX AVANTAGES QU'ELLE A APPORTÉS AU COURS DES ANNÉES, PEUVENT ÊTRE VITE OUBLIÉS QUAND VIENT LE MOMENT DE SA FERMETURE. JE PENSE QUE NOUS RECONNAISSONS TOUS L'IMPORTANCE DE CE PHÉNOMÈNE.

LA DIRECTION DE LA SOCIÉTÉ EST INTÉRESSÉE À EXPLOITER DE FAÇON RENTABLE AVEC LE MOINS DE RISQUES ET DE COÛTS POSSIBLE ET CE, DANS UN CONTEXTE DIFFICILE OÙ LA CONCURRENCE EST GRANDE SUR LE MARCHÉ INTERNATIONAL ET OÙ LE MILIEU SOCIAL ET LES INSTITUTIONS SONT FORT COMPLEXES. LA SOCIÉTÉ A DES RESPONSABILITÉS ENVERS SES ACTIONNAIRES QUI ONT, À LEUR TOUR, DES ATTENTES ET DES INTÉRÊTS. LA SOCIÉTÉ SOUHAITE AVOIR UNE INFRASTRUCTURE À TEMPS POUR SOUTENIR SES ACTIVITÉS ET - IL NE FAUT PAS S'EN SURPRENDRE - ELLE AIMERAIT QUE LE GOUVERNEMENT PAIE ÉVENTUELLEMENT CETTE INFRASTRUCTURE SELON DES MODALITÉS QUI TIENNENT COMPTE DE LA RÉALITÉ.

LES EFFETS NÉGATIFS POSSIBLES DU TRAVAIL PAR ROULEMENT QU'EXIGE CETTE FAÇON DE PROCÉDER, SOULÈVENT CERTAINES INQUIÉTUDES. JUSQU'ICI CEPENDANT, CELA NE SEMBLE PAS CAUSER DE GRAVES DIFFICULTÉS À LA PLUPART DES TRAVAILLEURS.

JE COMPRENDS QUE L'ON SE POSE DES QUESTIONS À CE SUJET, PUISQUE LES TERRITOIRES N'ONT PAS UN NOMBRE SUFFISANT DE TRAVAILLEURS À L'INTÉRIEUR DE LEURS LIMITES GÉOGRAPHIQUES. LA QUESTION DU DÉPLACEMENT DES TRAVAILLEURS EXIGERA BEAUCOUP D'ATTENTION.

EN CONCLUSION, LA PLANIFICATION ET LA PRISE DE DÉCISIONS DOIVENT ÊTRE SOUPLES ET TOUTES LES PARTIES DOIVENT RECONNAÎTRE QUE LA COLLABORATION, LA COMPRÉHENSION ET L'ÉLABORATION D'OBJECTIFS COMMUNS SONT ABSOLUMENT NÉCESSAIRES.

CECI M'AMÈNE À LA DERNIÈRE PARTIE DE MON DISCOURS.

SELON LA CROYANCE GÉNÉRALE, LES PRINCIPAUX ACTEURS ONT EU, DEPUIS PLUSIEURS ANNÉES, DES OBJECTIFS DIFFÉRENTS VOIRE MÊME CONTRADICTOIRES. LES GOUVERNEMENTS TERRITORIAUX PEUVENT, DE TEMPS À AUTRE, NE PAS ÊTRE D'ACCORD AVEC LE FÉDÉRAL; LES TRAVAILLEURS PEUVENT SE MÉFIER DES PATRONS; LES PATRONS PEUVENT CRITIQUER LES TRAVAILLEURS D'ÊTRE TROP EXIGEANTS ET LES DEUX SONT RECONNUS POUR REPROCHER AU GOUVERNEMENT À PEU PRÈS N'IMPORTE QUOI.

SI LES CIRCONSTANCES LE PERMETTENT, DES CENTRES COMME YELLOWKNIFE ET WHITEHORSE DEVRAIENT ÊTRE CHOISIS LORS DE PROJETS DE MISE EN VALEUR DES RESSOURCES. L'OBJECTIF EST D'AVOIR DES LOCALITÉS PERMANENTES, PROPOSANT LEURS SERVICES À PLUSIEURS ENTREPRISES ET POUVANT RÉSISTER AUX FLUCTUATIONS DU MARCHÉ MINIER.

AFIN DE RÉDUIRE LES COÛTS D'ÉTABLISSEMENT DE L'INFRASTRUCTURE, ON COMMENCE À METTRE À L'ESSAI CERTAINES SOLUTIONS QUI NE SONT PAS AXÉES SUR LES LOCALITÉS. POUR LES PROJETS POLARIS ET RABBIT LAKE, IL A ÉTÉ DÉCIDÉ DE TRANSPORTER PAR AVION SUR LES LIEUX, LES ÉQUIPES DE TRAVAIL, ET CETTE FAÇON DE FAIRE CONNAÎT BEAUCOUP DE SUCCÈS.

CE CONCEPT OFFRE PLUSIEURS AVANTAGES ÉCONOMIQUES ET SOCIAUX : ON PEUT RÉALISER DES ÉCONOMIES IMPORTANTES DANS LES DÉPENSES RELIÉES À L'INFRASTRUCTURE PUISQUE LE LOGEMENT ET LES SERVICES NORMALEMENT REQUIS DANS LES COLLECTIVITÉS FONDÉES SUR LA FAMILLE NE SONT PLUS NÉCESSAIRES. DE PLUS, LES COÛTS DES AVANTAGES INDIRECTS, COMME LE LOGEMENT SUBVENTIONNÉ, NE SONT PAS AUSSI ÉLEVÉS ET IL EST GÉNÉRALEMENT PLUS FACILE D'ATTIRER ET DE CONSERVER LE PERSONNEL SPÉCIALISÉ.

ON NE POURRA JAMAIS ÉLIMINER TOTALEMENT CE PROBLÈME CAR IL S'AGIT D'UNE INDUSTRIE SOUMISE À LA LOI DE L'OFFRE ET DE LA DEMANDE. MAIS NOUS DEVRONS TOUS RECONNAÎTRE LES RÉPERCUSSIONS DES FERMETURES ET DES MISES À PIED SUR LA POPULATION ET L'ÉCONOMIE. LES GOUVERNEMENTS, LES INDUSTRIES ET PAR LE FAIT MÊME LES CITOYENS DOIVENT EN DÉFRAYER LES COÛTS.

JE CROIS QUE NOUS DEVONS DONC TOUS PARTICIPER À L'ÉLABORATION D'ORIENTATIONS QUI NOUS PERMETTRONT D'ATTÉNUER CES DIFFICULTÉS ET DE FAVORISER UN DÉVELOPPEMENT COMMUNAUTAIRE PLUS STABLE DANS LES COMMUNAUTÉS ET CE, AU RYTHME DE LA CROISSANCE DE L'INDUSTRIE MINIÈRE DANS LE NORD.

UN CERTAIN NOMBRE DE JURIDICTIONS AU CANADA ONT EXAMINÉ DIFFÉRENTES SOLUTIONS. CELLES-CI SERONT ETUDIÉES EN DÉTAIL DANS LA POLITIQUE DE L'EXPLOITATION MINIÈRE DANS LE NORD. PERMETTEZ-MOI SEULEMENT DE MENTIONNER QU'À MON AVIS, ON NE DEVRAIT ENCOURAGER LA CRÉATION DE LOCALITÉS MINIÈRES QUE SI LES RÉSERVES DE MINERAIS PEUVENT GARANTIR DES ACTIVITÉS PENDANT AU MOINS VINGT ANS.

DE NOMBREUSES PERSONNES ESTIMENT QU'ON NE DEVRAIT PAS CRÉER UNE LOCALITÉ POUR DESSERVIR UNE SEULE MINE MAIS DÉVELOPPER PLUTÔT, LORSQUE POSSIBLE, UNE VILLE CENTRALE POUR PLUSIEURS MINES.

JE COMPRENDS QU'IL Y A DES LIMITES AUX SOMMES QUE L'INDUSTRIE PEUT DÉBOURSER POUR PROTÉGER L'ENVIRONNEMENT SANS RÉDUIRE DE FAÇON IMPORTANTE LA CONCURRENCE. JE SAIS AUSSI QU'UN TROP GRAND NOMBRE D'ÉTUDES PEUT ENTRAÎNER D'AUTRES DÉPENSES ET DES RETARDS. NOUS EXAMINONS PRÉSENTEMENT CES QUESTIONS DANS LA PRÉPARATION DE NOTRE POLITIQUE DE L'EXPLOITATION MINIÈRE. IL FAUT CLARIFIER, SIMPLIFIER ET ACCÉLÉRER LE PROCESSUS D'APPROBATION ET DE RÉGLEMENTATION .

J'AIMERAIS ÉGALEMENT VOUS RAPPELER QUE LE PROJET POLARIS N'A PAS ÉTÉ EXAMINÉ PAR LE PROCESSUS FÉDÉRAL D'ÉVALUATION ET D'EXAMEN EN MATIÈRE D'ENVIRONNEMENT ET BIEN QU'IL VOUS AIT FALLU FAIRE CERTAINES ÉTUDES ENVIRONNEMENTALES, IL NE SEMBLE PAS QUE CELA AIT CAUSÉ DES RETARDS.

LES PROJETS DES MINES LUPIN, SALMITA ET DU LAC CULLATON QUI ONT ÉTÉ RÉALISÉS RÉCEMMENT N'ONT ÉTÉ ÉTUDIÉS QUE PAR LE MINISTÈRE, ET L'APPROBATION A ÉTÉ ACCORDÉE SANS RETARD IMPORTANT.

UN AUTRE ASPECT DE L'EXPLOITATION MINIÈRE DANS LE NORD ME PRÉOCCUPE, ET JE CROIS QUE NOUS DEVONS TRAVAILLER ENSEMBLE POUR APPORTER UNE SOLUTION. IL S'AGIT DES PERTURBATIONS QUE L'ASPECT CYCLIQUE DE L'EXPLOITATION MINIÈRE PEUT ENTRAÎNER POUR LES LOCALITÉS QUI SE SONT FORMÉES AUTOUR DES MINES.

DANS QUELQUES JOURS, NOUS ALLONS RECEVOIR LE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION CANADIENNE DES TRANSPORTS PORTANT SUR LE TRANSPORT AU YUKON. AU MINISTÈRE, NOUS SOMMES EN TRAIN DE PRÉPARER, EN ACCORD AVEC LE GOUVERNEMENT TERRITORIAL ET L'INDUSTRIE, UN PLAN D'ACTION DÉTAILLÉ VISANT À RÉDUIRE LES COÛTS DU TRANSPORT. NOUS ALLONS EXAMINER TOUTES LES POSSIBILITÉS AFIN DE PRENDRE DES DÉCISIONS FONDÉES SUR LES RÉALITÉS ÉCONOMIQUES. VOUS SEREZ AUSSI INTÉRESSÉS À SAVOIR QUE LE MINISTÈRE ÉLABORE UNE POLITIQUE GLOBALE DE L'ÉNERGIE QUI TIENDRA COMPTE ET DU RAPPORT DE L'OFFICE NATIONAL DE L'ÉNERGIE ET DU RAPPORT PENNER. J'ENTENDS DISCUTER DE CETTE POLITIQUE AVEC LE CABINET D'ICI QUELQUES SEMAINES. CETTE POLITIQUE TIENDRA COMPTE DES RÉALITÉS ET DES BESOINS ÉCONOMIQUES DU NORD ET REFLÉTERA LE RÔLE FONDAMENTAL DE L'INDUSTRIE MINIÈRE DANS LE NORD. CES DÉMARCHES DU GOUVERNEMENT VISENT À ENCOURAGER L'ENTREPRISE PRIVÉE. QU'EN PENSEZ-VOUS JOHN? EST-CE QUE JE RÉPONDS DE FAÇON POSITIVE À VOTRE DÉFI?

J'AIMERAIS TOUCHER ICI UN AUTRE POINT, JOHN, CAR VOUS AVEZ SOULEVÉ LA QUESTION SUIVANTE : LE GOUVERNEMENT DOIT-IL PRENDRE POSITION LORSQUE DES PRÉOCCUPATIONS ENVIRONNEMENTALES EXCESSIVES S'OPPOSENT À L'EXPLOITATION MINIÈRE. VOUS DEVREZ ME PROUVER QU'UNE TELLE SITUATION EXISTE EN ME DONNANT DES RENSEIGNEMENTS CONCRETS.

J'AI TOUJOURS ESSAYÉ DE TENIR COMPTE DE VOS PRÉOCCUPATIONS ET DE VOS BESOINS. JE CROIS QUE LE GOUVERNEMENT FÉDÉRAL RECONNAÎT L'IMPORTANCE DE SA PARTICIPATION À LA MISE EN PLACE DE L'INFRASTUCTURE. J'AIMERAIS VOUS RAPPELER QU'À PINE POINT, PAR EXEMPLE, LES COÛTS RELIÉS À CETTE INFRASTRUCTURE REPRÉSENTAIENT ENVIRON 78 P. 100 DU COÛT TOTAL DU PROJET. TOUS LES COÛTS EN IMMOBILISATIONS ONT ÉTÉ ASSUMÉS AU DÉPART PAR LE SECTEUR PUBLIC.

LES CONTRIBUABLES CANADIENS ONT PAYÉ 4 MILLIONS DE DOLLARS POUR LA MISE EN PLACE DE L'INFRASTRUCTURE À CLINTON CREEK, QUELQUE 6 MILLIONS À TUNGSTEN ET PLUS DE 24 MILLIONS À NANISIVIK. POUR LA MINE DE LA CYPRUS ANVIL, LE GOUVERNEMENT FÉDÉRAL A DÉFRAYÉ ENVIRON 55 P. 100 DES COÛTS RELIÉS AUX ROUTES, À L'INSTALLATION DE LIGNES ÉLECTRIQUES ET À L'AMÉNAGEMENT DE LA LOCALITÉ.

COMME VOUS LE SAVEZ, J'AI RÉUSSI, À LA FIN DE L'ÉTÉ, À OBTENIR L'APPROBATION DU CABINET FÉDÉRAL POUR UNE NOUVELLE POLITIQUE DES ROUTES. AU COURS DES CINQ PROCHAINES ANNÉES, QUELQUE 100 MILLIONS DE DOLLARS SERONT AFFECTÉS À LA CONSTRUCTION DE ROUTES DANS LE NORD. DANS LE CADRE DE CE PROGRAMME, VOUS SEREZ HEUREUX D'APPRENDRE QUE J'AI DOUBLÉ LE NIVEAU D'AIDE FÉDÉRALE DISPONIBLE POUR LES ROUTES D'ACCÈS AUX RESSOURCES MINÉRALES.

UN DES EFFETS SECONDAIRES DE LA RÉCESSION QUE L'ON VIENT DE CONNAÎTRE, A ÉTÉ LA RÉDUCTION DES DÉPENSES D'EXPLORATION. EN 1981, DANS LES TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST, LES DÉPENSES ÉTAIENT DE L'ORDRE DE 50 MILLIONS DE DOLLARS. EN 1982, ELLES SONT PASSÉES À 22 MILLIONS. NOUS DEVONS RENVERSER CETTE SITUATION.

LE GOUVERNEMENT FÉDÉRAL VEUT ENCOURAGER LES INVESTISSEURS, TANT CANADIENS QU'ÉTRANGERS, À ACCÉLÉRER LE RYTHME DE LA PROSPECTION DANS LE NORD ET S'APPRÊTE À POSER DES GESTES CONCRETS.

LES MINES DU NORD DOIVENT DEVENIR COMPÉTITIVES. IL FAUT RÉDUIRE LES COÛTS D'EXPLOITATION ET L'UN DES FACTEURS POUVANT Y CONTRIBUER DE FAÇON IMPORTANTE EST LA MISE EN VALEUR DES GISEMENTS À TENEUR ÉLEVÉE QUE VOUS DÉCOUVRIREZ. ET PLUS VOUS ÊTES ENCOURAGÉS À LES CHERCHER, PLUS GRANDES SONT VOS CHANCES DE LES TROUVER.

AU COURS DES ANS, L'INDUSTRIE MINIÈRE A DÉTERMINÉ PLUSIEURS FACTEURS PERMETTANT DE STIMULER L'INVESTISSEMENT, L'EXPLORATION ET L'EXPLOITATION. VOUS NOUS AVEZ LAISSÉS SAVOIR QUEL RÔLE LE GOUVERNEMENT FÉDÉRAL DEVRAIT JOUER ET, SI JE COMPRENDS BIEN, JOHN WILSON A LANCÉ QUELQUES DÉFIS À CE SUJET.

GROUPES AUTOCHTONES ET LES AUTRES CITOYENS ONT TOUS DES INTÉRÊTS DANS L'ÉVOLUTION DU NORD ET ILS DOIVENT TOUS ÊTRE ENTENDUS. JE CROIS TOUTEFOIS QUE LES COMPROMIS ET LE CLIMAT ACTUEL DE CONFIANCE SONT PLUS FAVORABLES À LA CONSULTATION QU'IL Y A QUELQUES ANNÉES.

J'ESTIME QUE L'AVENIR EST PROMETTEUR. LA DEMANDE MONDIALE DE MINERAIS, BIEN QU'ELLE NE SOIT PAS À SON NIVEAU HABITUEL, CONTINUERA D'AUGMENTER. NOUS DEVONS NOUS PRÉPARER À ASSURER AU CANADA SA PART DU MARCHÉ INTERNATIONAL. A CETTE FIN, L'INDUSTRIE MINIÈRE DU NORD ET LES NIVEAUX DE GOUVERNEMENT DOIVENT COLLABORER POUR GARANTIR UNE PLACE IMPORTANTE AUX MINERAIS DU NORD.

ÉTANT DONNÉ QUE 40 P. 100 DE LA SUPERFICIE DU CANADA EST SITUÉE AU NORD DU 60^{e} ET QUE D'IMPORTANTS GISEMENTS SEMBLENT S'Y TROUVER, IL EST PROBABLE QU'UNE BONNE PARTIE DE L'ESSOR MINIER PRÉVU AU CANADA AIT LIEU DANS CETTE RÉGION.

AUJOURD'HUI, SEULEMENT 5 P. 100 DES MINES DU CANADA SE TROUVENT DANS LE NORD. A LONG TERME, CE POURCENTAGE NE PEUT QU'AUGMENTER. MAIS POUR DÉCOUVRIR ET EXPLOITER DES GISEMENTS RENTABLES, IL FAUT EXPLORER DAVANTAGE.

L'INFRASTRUCTURE, LE CADRE DES INSTITUTIONS, UNE VUE D'ENSEMBLE DE L'EXPLOITATION MINIÈRE, LES LOCALITÉS MINIÈRES ET BIEN D'AUTRES.

JE SAIS QUE LES REPRÉSENTANTS DE CE SECTEUR ONT BEAUCOUP PARTICIPÉ ET CONTRIBUÉ À L'ÉLABORATION DE CETTE POLITIQUE. JE LES EN REMERCIE ET LES INCITE À CONTINUER DE NOUS DONNER LEURS PRÉCIEUX CONSEILS.

JE CROIS SINCÈREMENT À LA CONSULTATION, À LA CONCILIATION ET À LA BONNE ENTENTE. AUCUNE POLITIQUE NE PEUT ÊTRE MISE EN OEUVRE AVEC SUCCÈS SANS L'ACCORD DES PARTIES INTÉRESSÉES ET LA VOLONTÉ DE TRAVAILLER ENSEMBLE DANS UN CLIMAT DE RESPECT MUTUEL ET DE CONFIANCE. JE PENSE QUE CETTE POLITIQUE DE L'EXPLOITATION MINIÈRE NOUS PERMETTRA DE CRÉER LE CLIMAT DE STABILITÉ ET D'ENTENTE NÉCESSAIRE POUR ENCOURAGER LES INVESTISSEURS CANADIENS ET ÉTRANGERS À JOUER UN RÔLE PLUS ACTIF DANS L'EXPLORATION DANS LE NORD ET LA MISE EN VALEUR DES MINES.

IL NE SERA PAS FACILE DE TROUVER DE BONNES RÉPONSES À LA QUESTION DE LA MISE EN VALEUR DES RESSOURCES MINÉRALES DU NORD.

LES GOUVERNEMENTS FÉDÉRAL ET TERRITORIAUX, LES ADMINISTRATIONS LOCALES, LES SOCIÉTÉS, LES SYNDICATS, LES

CERTAINES NE FONCTIONNENT PAS ENCORE À PLEIN RENDEMENT. IL SE PEUT QUE NOUS AYONS À FAIRE FACE À DES PROBLÈMES SEMBLABLES AVANT D'AVOIR COMPLÈTEMENT SURMONTÉ CETTE CRISE. LAISSEZ-MOI CEPENDANT VOUS ASSURER QUE LE GOUVERNEMENT FÉDÉRAL CONTINUERA DE PRENDRE TOUTES LES DISPOSITIONS POSSIBLES POUR VOUS AIDER À TRAVERSER CETTE PÉRIODE DIFFICILE.

AFIN DE DÉFINIR PLUS CLAIREMENT TOUS LES FACTEURS DE LA MISE EN VALEUR DES MINES DU NORD, LE MINISTÈRE PRÉPARE DEPUIS QUELQUE TEMPS UNE POLITIQUE DE L'EXPLOITATION MINIÈRE DANS LE NORD, DOCUMENT QUI, JE L'ESPÈRE, SERA TERMINÉ D'ICI LE PRINTEMPS 1984. CETTE POLITIQUE VISE À STIMULER L'EXPLORATION AINSI QUE LA MISE EN VALEUR DES MINES DU NORD; ELLE DEVRAIT PRÉCISER LES DISPOSITIONS QUE LE GOUVERNEMENT FÉDÉRAL ENTEND PRENDRE POUR AIDER L'INDUSTRIE À ÊTRE PLUS COMPÉTITIVE SUR LES MARCHÉS INTÉRIEUR ET MONDIAL.

JE NE PEUX VOUS EXPLIQUER EN DÉTAIL CE SOIR LE CONTENU DE CETTE POLITIQUE. NOUS AVONS DEMANDÉ L'AVIS DU COMITÉ CONSULTATIF CHARGÉ DE L'EXPLOITATION MINIÈRE DANS LE NORD ET NOUS CONTINUERONS DE LE FAIRE AU COURS DES PROCHAINS MOIS. DANS LE CADRE DE CE PROCESSUS, NOUS COMMENCERONS BIENTÔT LA DIFFUSION D'UNE SÉRIE DE DOCUMENTS PORTANT SUR CETTE POLITIQUE ET SUR DES ASPECTS TELS QUE LA MISE EN PLACE DE

TERRITOIRES VEULENT LEURS PROPRES DOMAINES DE COMPÉTENCE, ET LES CONTRIBUABLES SOUHAITENT UN ALLÉGEMENT DU FARDEAU FISCAL. ET CE NE SONT PAS DES SPÉCULATIONS. C'EST LA RÉALITÉ À LAQUELLE NOUS DEVONS FAIRE FACE.

LORSQUE DES DÉCISIONS SONT PRISES, ELLES SONT FONDÉES SUR LES ÉCHANGES ET LES CONCESSIONS DES PARTIES INTÉRESSÉES. NOUS POSSÉDONS DIFFÉRENTS MOYENS ÉCONOMIQUES ET FINANCIERS DE FACILITER CETTE PRISE DE DÉCISIONS. JE POURRAIS CITER PAR EXEMPLE LES ANALYSES D'ENTRÉE-SORTIE ET DE RENTABILITÉ, LES MODÈLES MATHÉMATIQUES ET BIEN D'AUTRES, MAIS BIEN SOUVENT, NOUS DEVONS RÉAGIR RAPIDEMENT À DES SITUATIONS DE CRISE.

VOUS SAVEZ TOUS CE QUI S'EST PASSÉ DERNIÈREMENT DANS LE SECTEUR MINIER. DANS LES DEUX TERRITOIRES, D'IMPORTANTES MINES ONT ÉTÉ FERMÉES, DES PROJETS D'EXPANSION ONT ÉTÉ MIS DE CÔTÉ, DE NOUVEAUX PROJETS ONT ÉTÉ RETARDÉS ET LES RÉSIDANTS DE PLUSIEURS LOCALITÉS MINIÈRES ONT CONNU UNE PÉRIODE TRÈS DIFFICILE. AU YUKON PLUS PARTICULIÈREMENT, L'AVENIR SEMBLAIT BIEN SOMBRE.

LA RÉPONSE QUE J'AI FAITE LORS DES DIFFICULTÉS RENCONTRÉES PAR LA CYPRUS ANVIL ET LA PINE POINT ILLUSTRE BIEN LA FAÇON D'AGIR DU GOUVERNEMENT DANS DE TELLES SITUATIONS. AUJOURD'HUI, TOUTES LES MINES SONT ROUVERTES BIEN QUE

EN FORMULANT LES LIGNES DIRECTRICES QUI FAVORISERAIENT UNE EXPANSION RATIONNELLE, NOUS DEVONS NOUS RAPPELER QUE L'INDUSTRIE ET LES GOUVERNEMENTS ONT DES MÉTHODES ET DES PRINCIPES BIEN DIFFÉRENTS LORSQU'IL S'AGIT DE PRENDRE DES DÉCISIONS.

L'INDUSTRIE INVESTIT D'IMPORTANTS CAPITAUX ET MOBILISE UNE MAIN-D'OEUVRE TRÈS SPÉCIALISÉE AU MOMENT OÙ LE MARCHÉ INTERNATIONAL EST INCERTAIN. C'EST EN TIRANT PARTI DES FLUCTUATIONS DU MARCHÉ QUE LES INDUSTRIES PEUVENT FAIRE DES PROFITS. C'EST UN DÉFI DE TAILLE QUE COMPLIQUENT LES EXIGENCES DES GOUVERNEMENTS. TOUTEFOIS, L'OBJECTIF EST CLAIR : IL FAUT RESPECTER CES LIMITES.

POUR LE GOUVERNEMENT, C'EST DIFFÉRENT. IL Y A PLUSIEURS "LIMITES" DONT IL FAUT TENIR COMPTE. LE PARLEMENT, QUI DOIT PRENDRE EN CONSIDÉRATION UNE MULTITUDE D'INTÉRÊTS ET D'OBJECTIFS POLITIQUES, INDIQUE À LA BUREAUCRATIE LA VOIE À SUIVRE TOUT EN GARDANT À L'ESPRIT LES POINTS SUIVANTS : LES ÉCOLOGISTES DEMANDENT PLUS DE PROTECTION; LES AUTOCHTONES VEULENT DES DROITS MINIERS; LES MANUFACTURIERS VEULENT DES PROGRAMMES "D'ACHAT CHEZ-NOUS"; LES ENTREPRISES EN DIFFICULTÉ VEULENT DE L'AIDE DU GOUVERNEMENT; L'INDUSTRIE SOUHAITE LA "NON-INGÉRENCE"; LES SYNDICATS DÉSIRENT QUE LE GOUVERNEMENT METTE FIN AUX RÉDUCTIONS DE SALAIRES; LES

SI NOUS DÉSIRONS OPTIMISER L'APPORT DE L'INDUSTRIE MINIÈRE À L' CONOMIE DES TERRITOIRES, IL FAUDRA FAVORISER L'EXPANSION D'UNE MAIN-D'OEUVRE QUALIFIÉE ET DU SECTEUR TERTIAIRE. UNE PLANIFICATION COMMUNE SERA ÉGALEMENT NÉCESSAIRE AFIN D'UTILISER AU MIEUX LES INVESTISSEMENTS PUBLICS ET PRIVÉS AU CHAPITRE DE L'INFRASTRUCTURE.

LES GOUVERNEMENTS DEVRONT FACILITER LE DÉVELOPPEMENT EN PROPOSANT DES ORIENTATIONS PRÉCISES ET UNIFORMES, EN FAVORISANT UN CLIMAT DE CONFIANCE DANS LE MILIEU DE LA PLANIFICATION ET EN PRENANT DES DÉCISIONS AUDACIEUSES MAIS SAGES EN CE QUI CONCERNE LES INVESTISSEMENTS SE RAPPORTANT À L'INFRASTRUCTURE.

SANS SACRIFIER L'ENVIRONNEMENT OU LES VALEURS SOCIALES ET CULTURELLES DES RÉSIDANTS DU NORD, IL FAUT EN ARRIVER À UN JUSTE ÉQUILIBRE DANS L'ÉTABLISSEMENT DES LIMITES ET DES CONDITIONS RELIÉES À LA MISE EN VALEUR DES MINES. LES COÛTS ET LES CONDITIONS QUI NUISENT À LA RENTABILITÉ D'UN PROJET, NUISENT ÉGALEMENT À LA CRÉATION D'EMPLOIS. D'UN AUTRE CÔTÉ, LE FAIT DE NE PAS IMPOSER DE LIMITES POURRAIT ENTRAÎNER SUR LE PLAN SOCIAL DES DÉSAVANTAGES QUI DÉPASSERAIENT LES AVANTAGES ÉCONOMIQUES OU QUI CONSTITUERAIENT UN CHANGEMENT TROP RAPIDE POUR PERMETTRE AU NORD DE S'Y ADAPTER.

INSTABLE ET DES MARCHÉS MONDIAUX TRÈS COMPÉTITIFS. L'ACCÈS AUX GISEMENTS DE MINERAIS N'EST PLUS GARANTI, ET IL FAUT TENIR COMPTE DES RÈGLEMENTS AINSI QUE DES LIGNES DIRECTRICES DU GOUVERNEMENT PORTANT SUR LA GESTION DES RESSOURCES.

POUR QUE L'INDUSTRIE MINIÈRE DU NORD CONTINUE D'ÊTRE UNE SOURCE D'EMPLOIS, D'EXPORTATIONS, DE REVENUS PRIVÉS ET PUBLICS, ET D'ACTIVITÉS ÉCONOMIQUES SECONDAIRES, ELLE DEVRA, EN ACCORD AVEC LES GOUVERNEMENTS, TROUVER COMMENT RÉGLER DE FAÇON CONSTRUCTIVE LES PROBLÈMES QUE NOUS CONNAISSONS TOUS.

CERTAINS DE CES PROBLÈMES, COMME CELUI DE DIMINUER LES COÛTS D'EXPLOITATION, SONT PARTICULIÈREMENT DIFFICILES À RÉSOUDRE. IL Y A PEUT-ÊTRE MOYEN D'Y REMÉDIER À L'AIDE DE RÉGIMES FISCAUX SOUPLES ET D'UNE PRODUCTION ACCRUE.

L'AUGMENTATION DE LA PRODUCTION GRÂCE AUX DÉCOUVERTES TECHNIQUES ET À L'AUTOMATISATION PRÉSENTERA DE NOUVEAUX DÉFIS DANS LE SECTEUR COMPLEXE DE LA MAIN-D'OEUVRE. L'INDUSTRIE ET LE GOUVERNEMENT DEVRONT POSSÉDER DES NIVEAUX DE COMPÉTENCE ÉLEVÉS ET DÉPLOYER DES EFFORTS EXTRAORDINAIRES POUR RÉPONDRE À CES BESOINS EN MATIÈRE DE MAIN-D'OEUVRE, PARTICULIÈREMENT SI CETTE DERNIÈRE DOIT ÊTRE COMPOSÉE D'HABITANTS DU NORD.

COLLECTIVITÉS TELLES QU'ON LES CONNAÎT, AVEC LEURS ROUTES, LEURS CHEMINS DE FER, LEURS SYSTÈMES DE COMMUNICATIONS, LEURS RÉSEAUX ÉLECTRIQUES, EXISTENT AUJOURD'HUI GRÂCE À LA DÉTERMINATION ET À L'ESPRIT D'AVENTURE DES PROSPECTEURS ET DES MINEURS QUI ONT FAIT VALOIR CES VASTES TERRITOIRES. EN EFFET, IL SERAIT DIFFICILE D'IMAGINER UNE ÉCONOMIE EN EXPANSION AU YUKON OU DANS LES T.N.-O., SI L'INDUSTRIE MINIÈRE N'Y JOUAIT PAS UN RÔLE DE PREMIER PLAN.

L'INDUSTRIE MINIÈRE DANS LE NORD A TOUJOURS ÉTÉ AUTONOME AU POINT DE VUE FINANCIER ET CHEF DE FILE AU CHAPITRE DE LA CROISSANCE ÉCONOMIQUE. PEUT-ÊTRE AVONS-NOUS QUELQUEFOIS PRIS CELA POUR ACQUIS. IL EST VRAI QUE L'INDUSTRIE DU PÉTROLE ET DU GAZ EST PLUS VISIBLE SUR LE PLAN NATIONAL ET CELA DEVIENT DE PLUS EN PLUS VRAI DANS CETTE RÉGION. L'INDUSTRIE MINIÈRE EXISTE DEPUIS LONGTEMPS ET ELLE A ÉTÉ À L'ORIGINE DU DÉVELOPPEMENT. JE NE CROIS PAS DU TOUT QUE CETTE INDUSTRIE SOIT À SON DÉCLIN COMME CERTAINS L'ONT LAISSÉ ENTENDRE ET JE VOUS ASSURE QUE LE GOUVERNEMENT FERA TOUT EN SON POUVOIR POUR QU'ELLE CONTINUE À PROSPÉRER.

L'AVENIR DE L'INDUSTRIE MINIÈRE N'A JAMAIS ÉTÉ AUSSI IMPORTANT POUR NOUS QU'AUJOURD'HUI, MAIS ON NE PEUT PLUS AVOIR DE CERTITUDE EN CE DOMAINE. CETTE INDUSTRIE DOIT SE MAINTENIR MALGRÉ DES COÛTS CROISSANTS, UNE MAIN-D'OEUVRE

MESDAMES ET MESSIEURS, JE SUIS HEUREUX D'AVOIR ÉTÉ INVITÉ À ME JOINDRE À VOUS CE SOIR.

LE FORUM GÉOTECHNIQUE EST DEVENU UN IMPORTANT ÉVÉNEMENT ANNUEL AUSSI BIEN POUR LE YUKON QUE POUR LES TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST. JE REMERCIE LA CHAMBRE DES MINES DES T.N.-O. DE M'AVOIR DONNÉ L'OCCASION DE M'ADRESSER À VOUS CE SOIR, ALORS QU'UNE AUTRE SEMAINE DE DISCUSSIONS FRUCTUEUSES SE TERMINE.

DES RENCONTRES COMME CELLE-CI PERMETTENT D'ÉCHANGER DES IDÉES ET DE SE PENCHER SUR CE QUE L'INDUSTRIE MINIÈRE REPRÉSENTE ET CONTINUERA DE REPRÉSENTER AU CANADA ET PLUS PARTICULIÈREMENT DANS LE NORD.

JOHN WILSON, VICE-PRÉSIDENT DU GROUPE DU NORD DE LA COMINCO LIMITED, A DONNÉ LE TON, DÈS LE DÉBUT DU FORUM, EN SOULIGNANT L'IMPORTANCE DE L'INDUSTRIE MINIÈRE DANS LE NORD. POUR APPUYER SES PROPOS, J'AIMERAIS VOUS FAIRE PART DE MES RÉFLEXIONS À CE SUJET.

IL EST CERTAIN QUE L'EXPLORATION ET L'EXPLOITATION MINIÈRES ONT OUVERT LE NORD À L'EXPANSION. LA PLUPART DES

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NOTES POUR UNE ALLOCUTION PRONONCÉE PAR
L'HON. JOHN C. MUNRO, C.P., DÉPUTÉ,
MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES INDIENNES ET DU NORD CANADIEN

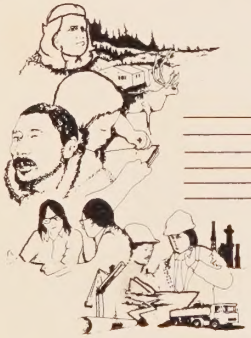
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